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Quarterly

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# Editorial

With this issue the Australian Library Journal changes editor for the fourth time in its eight years of publication, and it is appropriate that the new editor should attempt to state the policy of the Journal.

Such a statement must be largely a re-statement for this is an Association Journal and as such its policy must be the furtherance of the objects of the Library Association of Australia. The Australian Library Journal, like the Association whose mouthpiece it is, aims to promote, establish and improve libraries and library services and to improve the standards of librarianship and the status of the library profession. To these ends it tries to unite the members of the Association.

If it is to play its part the Journal needs the active support of the members. If it is to act as a channel of communication on library developments in Australia the Editor needs to hear news from the field—news of personnel promotions, appointments, resignations and publications, and news of the opening of new libraries and new buildings. Australia is a large country and the members of the Association live not only in the large cities, where library news perhaps circulates faster than the Journal, but also in hundreds of country towns where the A.L.J. is their link with the profession. Our first and greatest objective is the establishment and improvement of libraries. Surely it is fitting that we tell our colleagues whenever that objective is achieved? Earlier issues of the Journal included a section on the Australian Library Scene but it was discontinued through lack of copy. When the history of Australian librarianship is written it will not reflect much credit on the librarians of Australia when the chronicler

notes that the decade following 1950 saw a tremendous advance in the provision of local public libraries in Australia, but the Journal of the professional Association did not consider the opening of a new library worthy of note.

This issue contains descriptions of several large library buildings—and the fact that so many large libraries are working on buildings is some measure of the progress which Australian libraries are making. The planning of a new library is one of the most difficult, important and exciting tasks that can fall to any librarian, and Australian librarians have but a slender store of Australian experience to draw on. For this reason the editor is anxious to publish accounts and plans of new libraries, large and small, national and local.

The improvement of the standards of librarianship in Australia can be achieved through increasing the knowledge of Australian librarians and through encouraging research into library problems. The opportunities for publication here are boundless and the article on the history of the University of Melbourne Library begins a series which should finally contribute to a general history of Australian libraries.

The encouragement of research into library problems rests on the shoulders of librarians in charge of libraries and of those who are privileged to teach students of librarianship. Librarianship is a developing profession which offers many problems and challenges to those who are able and willing to think and to work beyond the obligatory working week. These are the people whom we want in the profession. The Editor will be pleased to hear from those who are either working



on, or contemplating research projects into, such areas as library philosophy and services, library techniques, the development of book resources, personnel development and education, and the Australian book trade. The Editor hopes to devote some individual issues of the Journal to these subjects.

The status of the library profession will be best improved by the professional service and attitudes of the members of the Association. The Editor is anxious to publish members' views on professional problems in the correspondence columns of the Journal—but personal attacks on individual members and officers of the Association do not belong in a professional journal.

Finally this Australian Library Journal belongs to the librarians of Australia. It is their record of ideas and achievements and it is the medium through which Australia's place in international librarianship must be judged.

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## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 1959

A Conference of the Library Association of Australia will be held in Sydney on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 25th, 26th and 27th August, 1959.

The place of meeting will be the new General Studies building of the Department of Technical Education in Harris Street, Sydney.

There will be Plenary Sessions, Section Meetings and meetings for special interests for which there are no Sections, for example cataloguing, library administration, etc.

The General Council will meet on Monday and Friday, 24th and 28th August, and these days will also be available for Section business meetings, inspections of libraries and other Section meetings and functions which may be arranged.

Sections will arrange the programme details for their own meetings and there may be some joint meetings. Suggestions for subjects for discussion at the meetings for special subjects will be welcomed by the Conference Secretary, Mr. A. L. J. Johnson, B.A., B.Ec., I.L.B., The Library, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, not later than 31st January, 1959.

Information about hospitality, accommodation, entertainment, details of the programme, costs and so on will be made available as soon as possible.



# A.B.C. Guest of Honour Address

By KEYES D. METCALF

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I have been in library work for over 50 years. This is a short period in terms of world history. But it has been an exciting and important period in library history. For instance, nine out of every ten books in American research libraries have been acquired during those years. This growth has been so rapid and so great that the Harvard Library, the third in size among American libraries, has added to its collections in that time more different book titles than all the libraries in Australia put together possess.

This is said, not to belittle Australian libraries, but for these two reasons:

1. To warn you that America's rapidly growing libraries have presented great problems, which you will face here in the immediate future. You are not as far behind the United States in library development as you may think, in spite of our greater age and population, and correspondingly greater resources.

2. To give myself an opportunity and an excuse to try to explain why American libraries have grown so rapidly.

I believe the growth is based to a large extent on the fact that those who control the library purse-strings are convinced that libraries are of great importance; that a library is "the Cultural Center of a City", "the Heart of a University", and an indispensable adjunct to a government; and so they appropriate the funds required to purchase the great collections available. These funds are considered as a first mortgage on the resources and not those which governments and institutions have left over after other essential things are paid for. In general they are appropriated year after year for library purposes and not turned on and off like a water tap as economic conditions go up and down.

Libraries appear to be regarded as more important in American cities and universities than you regard them here.

I shall talk this evening about the problems which large American libraries face. I believe, as I have just said, that they are problems which your government-supported libraries and your university libraries will face in the next generation.

The first problem is based on three facts:

Library collections tend to increase more rapidly than other parts of institutions with which they are connected because they continually add books and do not subtract.

As libraries become larger, the cost of handling each book increases.

As libraries become better, demands on them increase without automatically increasing their budgets.

As a result of these facts libraries are frequently in financial difficulties.

Library problems are by no means confined to a shortage of funds, but they are affected by the way the funds available are used. Most library expenditures result directly or indirectly from the purchase of books. The books must be selected, paid for, catalogued and housed, and service must be provided for them. There are perhaps fifty million different books in the world. Few libraries can afford to have more than a small fraction of them. This makes it evident that books added to a library should be carefully selected. In many libraries in America book selection is not well done. Much of it is haphazard in character. Books that are *not* needed and which will be seldom if ever used are purchased. Books that *are* needed are not acquired. Your Australian libraries are not so large and not so many mistakes have been made as yet, but your grants for books are increas-

ing and the opportunities to make mistakes will increase. Every book which is acquired and is not needed may make it impossible to buy another book which is needed, and each time two libraries in the same country buy a copy of the same little-used book when one is sufficient the total book resources of the country are reduced. As time goes on unnecessary duplication multiplies and becomes a serious matter. So this is my first point. The best possible book selection is important.

There are personnel problems today in all professions. There is a tremendous shortage of librarians in the United States. It seems impossible to find and keep enough good librarians to operate libraries effectively. An inadequate library staff with little continuity is an expensive economy. We have not paid enough attention to recruiting young persons for library work; to training them satisfactorily, either professionally or academically, and to paying them enough to hold them. Much of the fault lies with senior librarians, and supervisory boards. Both groups have too often failed to appreciate the importance of a good staff. I have a strong impression that a similar situation exists in Australia.

Because libraries have grown so rapidly in the size of their collections and in the number of their users many of them suffer from overcrowded quarters which reduce their effectiveness. Too many libraries occupy buildings planned as monuments and not as libraries. Libraries have suffered from their own importance. As the "heart of the university" or as the "cultural center of the city", we place the library building in a prominent site and decide that a monument is indicated. When you add to this the fact that not one library in 25 is designed by an architect or by a librarian who ever planned a library before, it seems almost inevitable that library buildings should be poorly planned. They are inconvenient and often they are inadequate because the space in them is not used to advantage due to faulty layouts. Many American libraries have cost fifty per cent more than is necessary. Australia is in the midst of a great library building programme. I hope

that it will not make the mistakes that the United States has made.

Co-operation between libraries is another problem. Librarians, as with many persons in other professions, do not seem to be co-operative by nature. They tend to consider each other as rivals. Each one wants his library to be bigger, and he thinks therefore, better, than his neighbour's. If libraries will co-operate their funds can go much farther. Unnecessary duplication of collections, of cataloguing and of services — all of which are costly — could be avoided. But we are finally beginning to make progress in America. Joint acquisition programmes, co-operative cataloguing, co-operative storage of little-used books and inter-library use are increasing. Our need for co-operation is great; but yours is probably greater because your total resources are smaller; making it even more important to take full advantage of what you have.

There is a world-wide need for greater library resources. Without them research work in all fields, in the humanities, the social sciences and in this day particularly, the sciences, is seriously handicapped. A considerable percentage of the scientific research carried on throughout the world duplicates research already completed and recorded in printed form. This duplication results from the failure of the researcher, through carelessness or through the lack of available library resources, to learn about what has already been done. The cost of this failure exceeds the total budgets of all of our research libraries.

My final problem deals with planning for the future. I shall make four proposals, proposals which I am sure apply to American Libraries and which I believe apply to those in Australia. And I shall then venture to suggest ways and means to help bring about the desired results.

1. Library collections in the years ahead should be built up more carefully, by better book selection and by avoiding wherever possible any unnecessary duplication of little-used books when it reduces the total research resources of the country.
2. Library service should be improved

by better recruiting and better academic and professional training of librarians followed by the payment of salaries large enough to make librarianship more attractive as a career profession.

3. New library buildings should be better planned in order to avoid waste of money. This need not and should not result in buildings which are congested, undignified, unattractive and uncomfortable.
4. Because library collections and services and buildings cost large sums of money, money that is hard to find, libraries should plan for the future as institutions that are part of a great national resource. This will not be easy but it is worth doing. If it is done the quality of the resource can be greatly improved without increasing library expenditures correspondingly.

I believe that one way, and perhaps the most economical and the best way, for Australia to move in the right direction would be to strengthen your Commonwealth National Library. You should, in my opinion, make it possible for that Library to become an effective Bibliographical Center for the country, recording in a Union Catalogue all of the printed resources of possible research interest in the nation. You should enable it to acquire on a large scale little-used publications which no other Australian library now possesses or should afford to acquire, but which are important research tools. You should provide it with housing and a staff with which it can give good service.

Because of your comparatively small population—less than that of the State of California; because of your at present limited research library resources—less for all Australia than those in the Harvard University Library; and because of your isolated position—several times as far

from the great research libraries in England, Europe and America as San Francisco and Los Angeles are from Washington, New York and Boston—because of these factors which should not be ignored, I suggest that it may be difficult for Australia to fill the important place in world development which it is capable of filling and which the English speaking world hopes it will fill, unless some way can be found to increase considerably your printed research resources so as to enable you to carry on advanced research in many areas which your libraries do not now cover satisfactorily. I have suggested that one way to do this is to strengthen your National Library. Another way and a much more expensive one would be to spend much larger sums on other libraries throughout the Commonwealth and duplicate in them, in my opinion unnecessarily, large quantities of little-used but important research materials.

But this does not mean that you should neglect your State and University Libraries. I hope that they can develop also far beyond their present status. I suggest that the University Libraries develop their collections and services in academic fields, particularly in the humanities and the pure sciences which are not covered well in other Australian libraries and that the unnecessary duplication of expensive and little-used materials be avoided so that the total Australian resources in all fields can be broadened and deepened. If funds are spent in this way, Australia will be able to say to its next generation of scholars and research workers: Stay in Australia! You can find *here* the essential tools of research available under satisfactory working conditions. You will be able to compete with the world for brains and you can say with pride: We have learned a lesson from American, British and Continental libraries and have avoided their mistakes.

# University of Melbourne Library

By LEIGH SCOTT

Ten years or so ago, when the Australian National University was founded, one of the earliest appointments to the staff was the Librarian, with instructions *and money* to establish a Library, i.e. to collect the books. He was ranked as almost equal to the professors, and with a seat on the Professorial Board. But the Library building is not there yet.

By way of contrast, when, one hundred years ago, the University of Melbourne was established, though it is hardly fair to say that no thought was given to a Library, relatively little was done. This is, perhaps, scarcely a condemnation, since at that time, libraries were not really considered of very great importance. In universities generally lectures were the thing.

The first lectures in the University of Melbourne were delivered in April 1855, in a rented hall in the city, because there were no buildings on the University "paddock". By the end of the year, however, the east and west sides of the quadrangle were in occupation, and the Library was established in the south end of the west wing, in the Registrar's office, and under his care.

There were very few students and the books were probably used mainly by the professors, though the Library was nominally open to all comers. It is a not unreasonable assumption, that, in accordance with library practice of the time, the Registrar, designated Registrar and Librarian, was a zealous guardian of the books. These numbered 2,971 at the end of 1857. Many of them had been purchased from the generous grant of £3,000 from University funds; but the Library received in those early years (and the lists of presented books are still available) many generous gifts. They came from the

University of Cambridge, from Dublin, from Utrecht, Giessen and Bologna, and from local benefactors, of whom the chief were the Anglican Bishop (Charles Perry) and the Roman Catholic Bishop (James Alipius Goold).

In 1865 the Library, comprising 8,200 volumes, had become too big for the Registrar's office; and, as the north side of the quadrangle, completed in 1856, had space in an upstairs room, the books were moved to their second temporary home, next to Professor McCoy's Natural History Museum. This move took control of the books from the Registrar; but he retained the title of Librarian till 1892, having, in charge of the Library, an Assistant Librarian.

During its early years the Library must have been given some thought by the Council, since from year to year it appointed a Library Committee. What functions this committee performed, it is impossible to say. It did not hold a meeting till December 1870.

The records show that growth was very slow in the late 'sixties and early 'seventies. By 1875 there were 9,000 volumes, too many for the Library's second temporary home. But some relief was at hand, for, in 1874, the Wilson Hall was promised and the Council decided that an upstairs room, in the recently erected two-story building on the north side of the quadrangle, should house the Library. This room had been intended as the ceremonial room; but Wilson Hall made it obsolete for that purpose. "It is proposed", so ran the Council's minute, "to fit up this chamber as a temporary Library. The present temporary Library will be used as lecture rooms". This third 'temporary' Library, housing about 10,000 volumes in 1877, was the main Library for fifty years, until the

shift, to an adapted building, took place early in 1927. At that date the Library had grown to 45,000 volumes, many of them in branch libraries.

It is impossible to say what use students made of the Library in its early years: probably very little! By 1877 the student population approached three hundred and many of them in the Arts and Law faculties must have found some occasion to use the Library.

Grants, up to the 'nineties, were generally inadequate and there were continual complaints from all the faculties. University finances were small, however, and the Library not very important. It has never been self-contained, i.e. it has not been able to supply the needs of students in full: they have been compelled to use the Public Library.

Nevertheless grants in the 'eighties were regular, but small, and so the Library had to budget carefully, even parsimoniously. By 1888 the Library contained 30,000 volumes and was growing steadily. And then came the crash. The bursting of the land boom hit Victoria very hard and the University shared the sufferings. Salaries were reduced and grants for the Library practically ceased. The nadir was reached in 1893 when purchased books totalled eighty-five; yet strange to say the Library was still too large for its accommodation and the Council decided that it was necessary to 'dispose of lumber'. In later years some of this 'lumber' was replaced, at considerable cost. Among the 'lumber' were year-books and calendars, and sad to relate hundreds of volumes of British Parliamentary Papers. Actually these were accepted by the Public Library of Victoria and stored there until 1928, when the University Library found shelf space for them. The importance of these to students needs no stressing. Unfortunately when the 'lumber' was disposed of the University also asked Her Majesty's Stationery Office not to send its publications in future, and to remove the University's name from its free list. Representations, in 1928, for restoring such gifts were only partially successful.

From 1905 onwards the Library received regular grants; but again they were never really adequate. It can be said that the Library was still not regarded as of great importance since students had the Public Library to call on. The expenditure on the Library, even including staff salaries, was about one-half of one per cent of the total University expenditure. And speaking of staff it may be briefly stated here that staff meant the Librarian, with a salary of £300, sometimes an assistant, usually very old, relief on necessary occasions by a clerk from the Registrar's office and an evening student attendant on four nights a week from 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock. As the Library was very poorly lit at night it repelled rather than encouraged use. Such, briefly, were conditions until the middle 'twenties.

After the gifts in kind, during its first few years, the Library benefited very little, until in 1903 came the fine bequest of some 2,500 volumes from George McArthur, a bibliophile baker of Maldon. This bequest consisted largely of Australiana and Burnsiana and contained some really valuable works. It caused some embarrassment, however, since housing was difficult. Removal of engineering books from the General Library to the Engineering School solved, in a measure, the housing problem and established the first Branch Library. It was still necessary to have books on the window ledges and in odd corners. But the room was not as chaotic as it had been in some previous years, when, left unsupervised, students had at times turned it into a bear garden.

It is a considerable jump from the first years of the century to the nineteen-twenties, when, for the first time, the University Council began to attach some importance to the Library. There had been the 1914-18 World War and student enrolments had increased. Besides this the lecture method was not so important as it had been in earlier years and students were called on for essay work. This applied, in particular, to students in the non-scientific and non-technological faculties. It was a common expression, even then, as earlier, that whereas science and



engineering students had their laboratories and workshops, the laboratory and workshop of the arts student was the Library. Perhaps, at one time, there was an element of truth in this contention; but, in recent years, the proliferation of scientific literature, especially journals, has been so rapid that no library can satisfy the scientists' requirements, nor can the scientist cope with the literature supplied.

But this is getting away from the subject.

Libraries in recent years have all been compelled to grow. In this University the growth really began in the 'twenties. Students had increased, as already stated, and their individual demands for literature increased also. In Melbourne the students, with an inadequate University Library, were driven to the Public Library of Victoria.

It was at this stage, in 1924, that the University gave serious consideration to its Library and planned the shift completed, as already said, by the beginning of 1927.

The accommodation provided was in the north side of the quadrangle, vacated by the Arts school. This was, and is, a lofty room about 180 ft. long by 30 ft. wide. For library purposes it was completely gutted and fitted up with three tiers of standard steel shelving. The shelves projected 6 ft. from the walls into the room thus leaving a space 18 ft. wide for seating accommodation. Into this were packed tables and chairs, of an unsuitable design, giving about 10 sq. ft. of space per reader. Now it is laid down in all library manuals that 25 sq. ft. per reader is the minimum requirement. Perhaps this fourth 'temporary' library (for the Council admitted it to be merely an expedient; but carried out the scheme against the vehement protests of the Librarian and the Library Committee) was all that finance could permit; but experience soon showed it to be a waste of money.

This removal to larger quarters naturally meant an increase in staff. Grudgingly it was increased to six—one was a supervisor, with a desk in about the middle of

the long room, the other five were uncomfortably 'accommodated' in a low-ceilinged flat-roofed room some 25 ft. square off the north east end of the reading room. It was very hot in summer and cold in winter. Of the five members of staff one was the Librarian. He was separated from the rest of the staff by a low partition, in a space somewhat less than 12 ft. square. Round the outside of the partition ran the catalogue drawers; and, besides the staff, there were in this space of 25 ft. square, the accessions, pigeonholes for the unbound periodicals, and shelves for the necessary library tools. I well remember the visit, in 1935, of Dr. Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. When he came to the Librarian's room and sat signing the autograph book someone said 'this is the Librarian's room'. Not raising his head Dr. Keppel said 'More shame to the University'. Americans do not always make understatements.

Yet it is true that, in the late 'twenties, the University really began to be dissatisfied with its Library; and, in 1928, at the latest, talk of a new library, properly designed, was heard.

Unfortunately the time was unpropitious, for the depression came, and all ideas for new buildings were forgotten. Even before this, in 1926, the Finance Committee had threatened, or indeed imposed, a twenty-five per cent cut in the Library vote of £1,600. Strong representations were made, and, actually, instead of the twenty-five per cent cut, the University granted a fifty per cent increase. That was the first sign of a more generous treatment for the Library. And then during the depression the grant was further increased, mainly because of the declaration by the Professorial Board, that, though other departments and officers of the University might be compelled to endure economies, the Library must not suffer.

And so, by a policy of gradualness, the grants were increased. The method approved by the Library Committee was to overspend, not excessively, and apply each year for an increased grant. Increases

were not always made and so the Library ran into debt. Reprehensible no doubt; but satisfactory results followed. In this way! When the overspending had reached a considerable amount, the Library Committee made approach to the Finance Committee, and persuaded that powerful body that the grant was insufficient. On two occasions the plea was successful — the Library overdraft was wiped off and the annual grant quite substantially increased. To employ a cliché — the end justified the means.

Mention of the Library Committee calls for some account of it. For many years now, the Committee has consisted of two representatives appointed by the Professorial Board and one member from each of the Faculties. This is a statutory provision. Until 1939 the Librarian, though he had other duties too, was denominated Secretary: in that year the statute was altered and the Librarian became a member of the Committee. The Committee did not, until recent years, express any forceful opinion, and indeed it may be questioned whether its members ever reported back to the Professorial Board or the Faculties on any of the proceedings at Committee meetings. It became more vocal after the second world war, expressing forceful opinion on the need for a new library building and decided views on its location. The Library Committee has never interfered or attempted to interfere in the internal management of the Library. The Librarian appoints his staff, is head of his department; and it is left to him to manage it. At one time the Committee took a great interest in the allocation of the vote; but for many years no attempt was made at allocation. It was left to the Librarian to check on departmental expenditure and to see that no department spent an unfair proportion of the vote. Recently, in the light of financial stringency, the question of allocation was again under discussion by the Committee, but a decision was made in favour of retaining the existing more flexible system.

The late Sir Ernest Scott, who was Chairman of the Library Committee in the

'twenties, advised me that, should I need a shield at any time, provided, of course, that nothing unpardonable had been done, the Committee should be regarded as that shield.

These statements may seem to minimize the importance of the Committee, though that is not the intention. If the Librarian were not doing his duty the Committee could soon become very active, as regular meetings are held, and special meetings when necessary. For example, the Library vote is the concern of the Committee; and as already stated, members have taken effective action on the vote, when the occasion required.

One great concern of the Committee is the ever increasing expenditure on periodicals, not only because of ever increasing costs of those received, but also because of the continuing demand for additions to the list. No new periodical subscription is permanently lodged except with the approval of the Library Committee on a strong recommendation, and after a trial period of at least a year. Members have taken their duties seriously, and meetings as a rule are fully attended.

But to return to the buildings! The long reading room was overcrowded during the nineteen-thirties; but in 1940 there was considerable relief. The Commerce department shifted from what had been the third 'temporary' library, (from 1877 to 1927), to new quarters, enabling the Library to resume its old room. Here there was accommodation for one hundred additional readers, for the accessions department, and the unbound periodicals. It was possible too, to provide a small staff room, with a gas ring and cupboards — nothing extravagant; but as the only conveniences, previously, had been two narrow cloak-rooms with a wash-hand basin in each of them, the staff, now somewhat more numerous, was conditioned to appreciate the slight improvement. There was no further improvement for about ten years.

In this period came the end of World War II leading to the tremendous influx of students reaching its peak total of 9,500

in 1948. Fortunately for the Library some hundreds of these went to the branch university at Mildura; but the strain was on; and as demographers estimated an ever-increasing student population the University was driven to action. The Library staff, the whole of it, was extremely dissatisfied with conditions and prospects.

On my return from twelve months' leave, early in 1948, I was faced with an ultimatum from the staff that unless something could be done to improve working conditions either wholesale resignations or a strike would be the result.

The Library Committee considered the position very seriously; but a new Library building was still merely a prospect and immediate action was necessary. And so an extension to the Library was planned. Considering the very great difficulties in the building industry in those years, the extension was built in reasonable time. Work on it commenced in October 1949 and it was in occupation early in 1951.

This extension of two floors runs to the north of the east end of the main reading room, about one hundred and twenty feet in length by thirty feet wide. It is the first building in the University designed specially for the Library. When finished, at a cost of £30,000, it provided, on the ground floor, very reasonable conditions, (and even amenities), for the staff, for the catalogue room and the cataloguers' room: on the first floor, space for about one hundred readers, for the unbound periodicals and the accessions department: four floors of stacks at the north end. What had been first the ceremonial room, then the Library (1877-1927), then the Commerce department (till 1940), then the periodical room became the Law and Fine Arts sections of the Library. Though this extension gave relief to the overcrowded Library it was again only an expedient, providing, it was estimated, sufficient book accommodation for about five years, enough time, it was hoped, for the University to build a complete modern Library. In the meantime, in 1955, more accommodation was provided in the lofty building, for both books and readers, by building

in an extra floor. Some considerable foresight was exercised and this floor will be available for other purposes when the Library removes.

Earlier proposals for the adaptation of the existing building having been rejected, the site for the new Library was selected in 1952, and the planning by the Architect, in consultation with the Librarian, has been an almost continuous process ever since. The essential layout of the whole scheme was evolved in 1953, and about the middle of 1954, when it was recognized that proposals for the completion of the new Library in stages would not solve the problem, authority was given to proceed with working drawings and specifications for a complete Library.

The purpose of the 1951 extension was nearly realized, for, after eight years, the new building, construction of which commenced in March, 1957, and to cost £700,000, now approaches completion and should be in occupation by the beginning of the 1959 academic year. The new Library is designed to accommodate 1,000 readers and some 300,000 books. It is a flexible building with provision for upwards expansion and ground space for expansion outwards. This Library, with the twelve Branch Libraries, will provide accommodation for about 1,700 readers.

The old Library is not to be completely abandoned to other than Library purposes. The ground floor of the long reading room will become the Law Library: the extension, completed in 1951, and sections of the long room, will be converted into offices for the University administration.

Attention has been riveted on Library buildings; and, though buildings and their inadequacy, have been one of the chief concerns for many years there are other matters too. Among the chief of these are finance and staff, to which only passing references have been made.

Perhaps finance up till about thirty years ago can be ignored. Certainly some money was spent on books; but it was very meagre, about £2,000 in 1925. Then from 1930 expenditure began to grow, until by 1939 the total spent on books



reached nearly £4,000. During the war years this expenditure, as might have been expected, dropped; but from the mid 'forties began to soar, reaching nearly £16,000 in 1950, mounting gradually till 1954 and then jumping to about £33,000 in 1955, after the appointment of a new Librarian.

A jump of this sort is not an unusual phenomenon, when there is a change in management. A newcomer discovers needs, (possibly they are indicated to him by his predecessor); and, if he acts quickly, has reasonable hope of having such needs supplied. This applies not only to the supply of books, but to services also, and increased expenditure on books is followed by increases in staff and in staff salaries.

One point can be made with certainty, that if a library remain static, it might as well cease to exist. It is perhaps an exaggeration to say that this Library was almost static for the first seventy years of its existence, since it grew from 3,000 to 45,000 volumes in that time. From 1925 to the present it has multiplied more than five times and over the last ten years has added to its collection more than 9,000 volumes per annum.

As compared with the big overseas libraries, in the United States especially, these accessions are almost insignificant; but then the thought does arise — How big should libraries be? A well selected collection of books is a better proposition than a mere mass. This is not to imply that the big libraries in the United States and elsewhere are merely masses of books; but one can surely wonder just how the future will solve this problem of growth. This is not the place to philosophize; but perhaps, (almost certainly), posterity will be just as severe on us as we are at times on our ancestors. Possibly we should hope so; but we should endeavour not to give posterity cause.

As is the case with all other libraries, the University receives many gifts of books and has arranged exchanges with libraries in many parts of the world. It is, of course, impossible to list all of these: gifts are reported to the University Council

every month, and the annual report of the Library has a section on exchanges. Perhaps one of these exchanges, arranged some five or six years ago, is worthy of special mention — the big Russian encyclopaedia, still in progress, that comes from Moscow.

One very important bequest made by George McArthur in 1903 has already been mentioned. After that there was nothing of consequence for years, but since 1927 the following are well worthy of note.

- 1927 E. Truby Williams, Esq., £5,000.  
Library Appeal £2,000.
- 1944 (and later) Lady Emily Scott. Library  
of Sir Ernest Scott.
- 1944/5 Government Observatory books,  
transferred by the Victorian Govern-  
ment when the Observatory closed.
- 1945/9 Estate of Henry Bournes Higgins  
£12,000.
- 1944- W. L. Baillieu Trust. Estimated to  
yield eventually £110,000.
- 1951 Library of Alfred Hart (4,000 v.).
- 1952 Books from R.S.S.A.I.L.A.  
Books from Ballarat School of  
Mines.  
W. J. Foote bequest £3,300.
- 1954 F. C. Morgan, Esq., Children's  
books, 1729-1900.
- 1954 Miss Gladys Bell, Gould's Birds of  
Australia, 8 v.  
Gould's Mammals of Australia, 3 v.
- 1956 A. R. Henderson bequest £3,000.
- 1957 Library of Professor M. D. Goldman  
(2,500 v.).

Some comments may be made on these gifts and bequests. Sir Ernest Scott's library was comprehensive and contained many interesting items: the books from the Observatory included files of important scientific journals, not available elsewhere in Melbourne: the money from the W. L. Baillieu Trust made possible the new Library building: the library of Alfred Hart, a well-known collector, brought in many rare volumes and first editions; moreover much of it was available for exchange with other libraries, since its disposal was at the absolute discretion of

the University: the gift from Mr. F. C. Morgan was a unique collection of children's books; and Miss Bell's gift of Gould's famous and monumental books provided the Library's most valuable single work. Had it not been for such books the Library would possess very few rariora, because it has never been in the market for rare books. It may be mentioned that there are six fifteenth century books (incunabula) in the Library, one of them purchased in 1947 from a second-hand bookshop in Melbourne, for about one twenty-fifth of its value to the collector.

Some, not quite definite, statements have already been made about the present size of the collection. To be more definite—in 1959 the Library will possess more than 240,000 volumes. Of these, about 145,000 will be in the General Library; the others in twelve Branch Libraries. Some of these Branch Libraries are in cramped conditions, to be somewhat relieved, in all probability, by the transfer of little used material to storage in the new General Library building. The biggest of them are Medicine (30,000 volumes), Engineering and Metallurgy (16,500 volumes), Law (14,000 volumes) and Geology (10,500 volumes).

Of these the Medical Library suffers most from lack of space, and generally from very poor physical conditions for the staff. Yet since 1953, the medical library staff has carried on an extraordinarily useful service, through the Central Medical Library Organization, by instituting and continuing a very valuable exchange of medical literature, not only in Australia, but with many overseas countries. Duplicate sets of periodicals are exchanged and placed where they will be most useful. All the medical libraries in Melbourne participate in the scheme. The Medical Library has constant calls on its union list of books and periodicals in Melbourne Medical Libraries. A large measure of co-operation has been needed and obtained in medical libraries in Melbourne.

Co-operation librarians must seek, as the *sine qua non* of effective library service

in Australia. There are two immediately obvious means—(1) exchanges of material, and (2) inter-library loans. The University of Melbourne Library has an ever-expanding exchange programme, using the books issued by the University Press, the *Melbourne University Law Review* (formerly *Res Judicatae*), *Meanjin* and some other journals. Of inter-library loans it is enough to say that all libraries of note participate. From the Library here, the most frequent borrower is the C.S.I.R.O. Between that organization and the University there is almost a shuttle service. Overseas lendings and borrowings are not at all unusual. Melbourne has borrowed books through the National Central Library in London, has on occasion borrowed theses from other universities both in Australia and Britain and has lent theses, with authority from the authors, to institutions in the United States. There are numerous borrowings from the Public Library of Victoria. Then, too, as is well known, microfilms and photostats are sent and received from Australia and other places.

Obviously with the growth of the book-stock, and the increase in numbers of both staff and students, lending within the University has grown too. Such loans have doubled in the last few years, reaching 81,000 in 1957. The Library has never been regarded as primarily a lending library; but the policy today is to lend freely, thus possibly reducing the number of irregular 'borrowings'. Missing books are rather a problem. In 1957, they numbered 630, certainly a record; but to detect irregular borrowers is difficult.

The Library staff now numbers fifty and is mainly female. It is the practice to appoint graduates to professional positions; and, except for attendants to carry out the more menial duties, to appoint matriculated juniors. Such juniors are given opportunities to qualify for a degree. Within limits, time off is given to attend lectures and fees are refunded for subjects in which they pass. They are also expected to take the L.A.A. examinations.

Only two members of the staff are equated with academic positions—

the Librarian with the Associate Professor and the Assistant Librarian with the Senior Lecturer. Some six years ago other library officers were equated with academic staff; but later a library classification, in line with the administrative staff rather than the academic, was brought into operation. Classification and salaries now compare favourably with those of other university libraries in Australia. Without adequately remunerated staff the efficiency of library service must suffer.

Early in 1956 the Library began the use of the unit card. With the multilith machine for duplication, this relieved the cataloguers from much tedious work, and readily provided the necessary number of cards for the catalogues both in the General Library and the branches. The machine was not however for Library use only, and there were sometimes annoying delays in the copying of the cards. All descriptive cataloguing is done in the General Library.

In considering all the rapid changes in library services over the last twenty or thirty years and the equally rapid—even more so—changes in library processes, the question naturally arises—Can we expect complete automation in libraries in the near future? Perhaps so; there are microfilms and microcards selectors, and contoura machines for cheap and speedy reproductions, and who knows what electronic devices there may come to save writer and reader any trouble at all?

However there are still books and libraries and they are being used more and more. Consequently over the years library hours have increased. In Melbourne the hours are shorter than in many American libraries; but the University Library is open, during the academic year, from 8.45 a.m. to 9.45 p.m. Monday to Friday

and from 8.45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. These hours make necessary more staff than were required thirty years ago when the opening hours were 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and four evenings a week from 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock.

There is no broken time for any member of staff. The hours are regular. The evening staff commence duty at 3 p.m.; but the staff is so organized that no-one has more than a few weeks' evening duty throughout the year. The evening staff is rather a skeleton one.

Let me conclude with a summary of the Library position as it appears for 1958.

Bookstock	240,000 vols.
Annual accessions	9,000 vols.
Current periodicals	3,000
Seating accommodation (when new Library is completed and including Branches)	1,700
Hours of opening per week (General Library)	73
Number of staff	50
Branch Libraries	12

#### Expenditure:—

Books, Binding, etc.	£40,000
Salaries	£42,000

The total expenditure is thus about £82,000, being 3% of the total University expenditure. In other Australian universities this figure ranges from 4% to 7%. In British universities the average is 4%. Being so far away from the big centres, the expenditure here should be larger; but in comparison with the expenditure thirty to thirty-five years ago there is evidence that the University does today attach great importance to the Library. Creseat.

# The Baillieu Library—University of Melbourne

By K. A. LODEWYCKS, B.A., LIBRARIAN

## *Introduction*

In April 1955 the Australian Library Journal published a report, which also dealt with the principles and procedures adopted in planning the new Library for the University of Melbourne. It is not proposed in this article to cover these aspects again in detail, but rather to describe the features of interest in the completed building.

From the beginning of the planning process it has been envisaged that the flexible design should allow for changes in layout at any stage before or after completion of the building. While the essential layout remains the same as that evolved in 1953, a number of modifications to the plan described in 1955 have since been made. For instance, in order to provide more floor area in the building, the light well in the west wing has been eliminated and the two large double-height reading rooms have been modified. The average ceiling height was maintained to satisfy building regulation requirements by the creation of floor wells in six locations, which add to the spaciousness in affording views from one floor to other floor levels and form a series of wall-less yet seemingly contained reading areas. Decorative open screen-work here and there also breaks up the large reading areas and will avoid the appearance of regimentation of tables and chairs.

Other modifications have achieved the enlargement of the catalogue hall by some decentralization of reference activities and by removing the circulation counters to the front of the building. The work area for the Accessions Department has been increased by removing the Periodicals and Binding Section to the first floor immediately above, on the principle that vertical division is as good as horizontal if inter-communication is easy. A

separate room for rare books and committee meetings has been restored in approximately the location originally planned for it on the first floor. A room 23 feet square in the basement has been provided for the storage and use of materials in micro-form, whereas reading machines were originally to have been installed in carrels. The staff common room has been enlarged and provided with folding doors to enable a section of it to be closed off and used as a library science seminar room. A separate reading room for the academic staff has been provided and the number of studies for academic staff increased to eleven. The exhibition area has been moved inside the entrance to the ground floor reading room and the map room to the second floor. Facilities for book repairs, photocopying by Contoura or similar processes and the preparation of exhibitions have been created in the basement. Seminar rooms and an audio-visual department have been eliminated, but there are areas which could be adapted to these purposes if required. The caretaker's quarters have been eliminated.

## *General Description*

The Baillieu Library, as the new building is to be called, at the time of writing only awaits the installation of the furniture. It is the first building in the University of Melbourne, apart from an extension to the old Library, to be designed specifically for library purposes. It consists of a semi-basement and five floors, including the top-most equipment and storage floor, has 90,000 square feet of floor space, over seven miles of shelving and can accommodate 1,000 readers, at least 300,000 books and a staff of sixty. The capacity for either books or readers could be increased by reducing aisle widths between shelving and furniture, but by

the addition of two floors and by extending outwards the site could ultimately accommodate 2,000 readers, over a million books and any required increase in staffing.

The building is of contemporary design in steel, concrete and glass construction with cream brick and exposed aggregate concrete facings. It is a frame structure with no load bearing walls and the entire floor area is capable of carrying book stacks at any point. This will allow for complete adaptability to changing conditions of use and for alterations within the building or extensions at any level and in any direction over the site. The module size is 23 feet square, which was determined in the initial planning stage as the most advantageous for the spacing of reading furniture, card cabinets and shelving, and allows for a minimum aisle width of six feet between reading tables and 2 feet 9 inches between shelf ranges. Partitions are demountable except where positive soundproofing is required.

Broadly, the layout of each floor consists of bookstacks radiating from the central staircase and occupying the inner areas with adjacent reading rooms in the outer areas served by natural light. By an adaptation of the arrangement favoured in one notable American library, traffic also radiates along passages through the stacks to minimise disturbance in reading areas. No part of the building is more than fifty feet from a staircase or lift, there being three staircases, a public lift and a staff lift which serve all floors.

All floors, excepting the equipment floor, accommodate both book stack and reading areas. In addition, on the ground floor, situated centrally across the lobby from the main entrance, is the catalogue hall with the reference collection and staff, immediately beyond which is the preparations area. Grouped around the public entrance are the lobby, the circulation counters, a cloak room for readers, public telephones and the exit control point. The administrative offices are to the right of the lobby on entering.

In addition to some facilities already mentioned in the introduction, the base-

ment accommodates an extensive book-stack with special tables for the use of long runs of government publications and bound newspapers. Adjacent is the closed stack for restricted materials, which together with the rare book room will be accessible only to readers who have a permit. The basement also accommodates the shipping room with external entrance and loading dock, a storeroom for packing cases, pamphlet boxes and the like, a carpenter's bench, a stationery store, the staff amenities linked by a staircase to the work areas on the ground floor immediately above and a coffee shop for readers, which will be conducted by the University Union.

Throughout the building the Architect has given special attention to colour treatment and the general effect in reading areas is restful with certain features emphasised in stronger colours.

#### *Provision for Readers and Staff*

The floor space allows for a minimum of 25 square feet per reader in reading areas and at least 100 square feet per member of staff in work areas. The reading tables will accommodate eight, six or four persons and there will be, in addition, 130 individual study tables distributed over the various floors. A number of reading tables will be subdivided to form multiple open carrel units. There are twelve lockable carrels, each 45 square feet in area, and provision for thirty-three open carrels with lockers which will be assigned to senior students, as well as the eleven studies for academic staff and visiting scholars. It is hoped to provide some comfortable arm chairs with magazine tables in the lobbies and in most reading areas. The micro-room has space for six reading machines for use of micro-films, micro-cards, micro-prints and micro-fiches. Nine small sound-proofed rooms will provide for the use of typewriters and other mechanical appliances by readers.

Use of the Library will mainly be under conditions of open access; readers will have unrestricted access to the catalogue and to almost the entire book collection. The catalogue and reference services will



be centrally situated in relation to use by both readers and staff. Since bookstacks and reading areas are arranged in adjacent locations throughout the building, storage and use of books will be, as far as possible, in the same place to ensure accessibility and prompt re-shelving.

The bookstock will be in one main classified sequence with the bound periodicals on any subject shelved with the books. It will be arranged bearing in mind the relationship of one subject field to another, for instance, Linguistics will be shelved in the same area as Literature. Floor directories and signposting will direct the reader to his subject. There will be separate arrangements for reserve books, government publications, maps, unbound periodicals, newspapers and restricted material including rare books. The rare book room will be an attractive feature of the Library and special attention has been given to its furnishings. It is to be called "The Leigh Scott Room".

Since the great majority of the Library's clientele are undergraduates, it is not at present anticipated that there will be any collections or reading rooms designated specifically for graduate or undergraduate use. Apart from a limited reserve book collection for undergraduates and the books charged to research workers for use in studies and carrels, books will generally be placed in their normal classified sequence and all readers will thus be brought into contact with the whole of the Library's resources in any particular field.

The aim has been to provide for up to twenty-eight different ways of using the Library's resources. In addition to the requirements of the general reader and the various facilities already enumerated above, these will include provision for staff, student and external loans, a photocopying service, including on-the-spot supply of Thermofax copies, special furniture for the use of reference books, art folios and newspapers, and it is planned to provide an illuminated map-tracing table. It will also be possible to hold occasional lectures or exhibitions in certain portions of the building and areas where

smoking and discussion can be permitted, wash rooms, toilets and a staffed cloak room are provided for.

It is hardly necessary to point out that library materials are a basic requirement at all levels of study, teaching and research, and that many students spend more time in the Library than in any other University building. It is with regard to these facts that the planning of the Baillieu Library has aimed to combine all desirable provision for efficient service with attractive and well-appointed premises, where readers for thirteen hours a day can have Library books for curricular or extra-curricular reading under the most accessible conditions; and where also the many, who merely wish to work with their own books or notes, will find ample room to do so.

Nor have the staff, who organize the Library's collections and provide the service, been overlooked. They will have adequate working quarters and amenities. These amenities include a common room and a kitchen with an electric stove and a refrigerator for the professional and clerical staff, a common room with adequate refreshment facilities for the general staff, wash rooms with toilets, showers and wardrobe lockers for male and female staff, a rest room and, for the women cleaners, a small, separate general-purpose staff room. There are a cleaners' storeroom with running water and a centrally situated wash basin for staff use on every floor.

#### *Furniture and Equipment*

Over one hundred different types of furniture are required in the building. They have been designed or specified with careful attention to detail and in accordance with the latest overseas trends. *Tables* will be at a height of 2 feet 5 inches and "apronless" with a knee space clearance of 28 inches above the floor. The type of leg recommended for "apronless" tables has not hitherto been manufactured in Australia and is being introduced as a regular production line by a Melbourne hardware firm. Reading tables will provide a surface of 2 feet 9 inches wide by 2 feet deep per reader, individual study

tables a surface of 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 3 inches. *Desk* and *bench* tops will be covered in linoleum, sealed to prevent staining, or formica and it is hoped that reading and other tables will have inlaid matt finish formica tops. Plain wooden tops for reading tables have not proved satisfactory in the past and where smoking is permitted it is desirable that table tops should be completely covered with formica. All exposed wooden surfaces will be finished with a durable synthetic varnish and it is hoped that all furniture legs will have adjustable glides and will be protected by ferrules against marking and floor polish stains. Positioning pins let into the floor will prevent the disarrangement of individual study tables. Work benches and reference benches will be a standard height of 3 feet 3 inches. A prototype of the standard *readers' chair* has been in use in the Library for some time. It is of anodized aluminium rod construction, with sponge rubber seat and back and upholstered in vynex of a serviceable colour. Stools for use at benches will also be metal framed.

Cabinets and card trays for the *main catalogue*, with the necessary label holders, followers and snap-locking rods have been designed according to overseas specifications as have the adjustable *display racks* for periodicals and the *depressible book trolleys* for use at book return chutes. The various "hardware" components for these items are being produced in Australia for the first time. The special cabinets for *art folios* and atlases have been designed with sliding shelves. The circulation *counters* have been constructed with two levels, bench height at the front and table height at the rear where occupied by the staff. The lockers to be fitted on the *open carrel* tables will have wire mesh fronts of an original design which can be folded back to enable the locker to be used as a shelf while the carrel is occupied.

*Wooden shelving*, where it has been provided, is generally 10 inches deep and, apart from the table height perimeter shelving in work areas, has slotted metal adjustment strips. A cork strip has been

set into the inclined bottom shelf to prevent books sliding back from the front edge.

The *steel shelving* is of the standard freestanding bracket type with end panels, canopies and kick plates, is 7 feet 6 inches in height, with uprights spaced at 36 inch centres, and is adaptable to eight or ten inch deep shelves throughout, with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch adjustment. Elephant folios will be shelved through the full depth of a double-faced range. The shelves are of 18 gauge and the uprights of 16 gauge steel, and the hollow interiors of the uprights are also painted to minimize the risk of corrosion. Particular attention has been given to the improvement of certain features such as the design of a base assembly, which will distribute the load and prevent indentation of the flooring.

*Shelf accessories* apart from end panel label holders, i.e. shelf label holders, which clip on to the shelf return, and wire book supports, which clip into the underside of the shelf above, are being supplied for the first time in Australia. The steel shelving for unbound periodicals, which are shelved flat, will be interchangeable with book shelving, but will be without end supports to allow a minimum vertical spacing of five inches, and is also of a type new to this country. The greater part of the multi-tier shelving in the old Library is being converted to freestanding units for use in the new Library. Consideration was also given to the use of *compact storage* and the basement is capable of carrying it, but it would appear that any section of the bookstock, which is so little in demand that it can be housed under the somewhat laborious conditions of use and re-shelving that compact storage involves, is, in the last resort, better removed to less valuable space outside the University.

*Ceilings* are suspended, masking ventilating ducts and other services and are finished with acoustic tiles. The *flooring* is of vinyl tiles in the basement, of nylex plastic tiles in the main lobby and catalogue hall, and of rubber tiles in all reading and work areas. While vinyl skirtings have been used almost through-

out, the wall surfaces are paint on plaster. Durable plastic wall surfaces were recommended to minimize future maintenance, but were not approved owing to the additional cost.

The building should be comparatively free of dust, since all windows are sealed. Full air-conditioning with humidity control is provided and the air is filtered and washed. The great glazed expanse on the east side is fitted with non-actinic glass to reduce the transmission of heat and it is hoped to provide translucent terylene draw-curtains at these windows to prevent, when necessary, the intrusion of strong sunlight. The windows on the north and west sides are protected by adjustable sun louvres fitted externally. These curtains and louvres will be manually operated, since the high cost of mechanical operating equipment could not be allowed for.

The T-shaped outline of the plan will ensure maximum natural light by day. The artificial lighting is almost entirely by hot cathode fluorescent tubes of a warm colour flush mounted in the ceilings. The intensity of the lighting is generally from 20 to 25 foot candles on reading and working surfaces. Although general strip lighting running at right angles over stack ranges was considered for flexibility in the future re-disposition of these ranges, single tube fittings aligned over the stack aisles have been adopted for economy reasons.

Many of the light switches are distributed throughout the building, partly for purposes of flexibility. As an alternative to centralized switching on each floor, it has been necessary to provide magnetic relays which will throw each switch to the "off" position when a master switch is operated. This will obviate the need for a tour of the entire building at closing time to extinguish lights and will not operate the essential cleaners' lights which will remain on during cleaning operations through the night.

Communications within the building will be assisted by a *booklift* serving all floors and, in addition to extensions from the telephone switchboard, there will be an internal telephone system serving 25

points with buzzer extensions on each floor to bring service to the booklift telephone when required. The electric clocks throughout the building are controlled by a master clock. Hot water is provided for all wash-basins and sinks and fire precautions consist of thermostatic alarms, fire hoses and foam extinguishers.

#### Conclusion

The cost of the building, its furniture and equipment including air conditioning plant will be in the region of £700,000. The cost of the structure is £620 per square, and in evaluating this cost account should be taken of the particularly high floor loading provided for throughout, the structural provision for two extra floors, the air conditioning and sun-control equipment. The planning has been an almost continuous process since 1952, when the site was selected, and has been carried out by the Office of John F. D. Scarborough in consultation with the Librarian. The building will be ready for occupation at the beginning of 1959 and it is hoped to have the furniture completed by the beginning of the academic year.

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#### EXAMINATIONS, 1959

The Preliminary Examination will be held on 3rd and 4th June, 1959. Applications for admission close on 31st March.

The Registration Examination will be held from 23rd November to 4th December, 1959. Applications for admission close on 30th June.

Fees for examinations and certificates are:

Preliminary Examination, £2.

Registration Examination, £1/10/-  
for each paper.

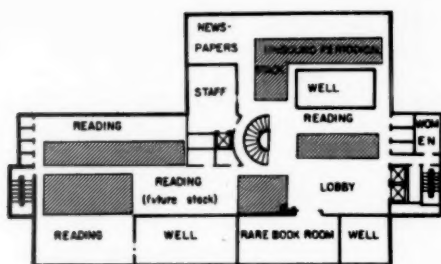
Preliminary Certificate, £1.

Registration Certificate, £4.

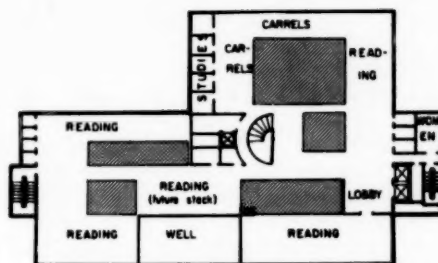
Applications for admission to the Preliminary or Registration Examinations should be addressed to:

The Secretary,  
Board of Examination, Certification and  
Registration of Librarians,  
The Library Association of Australia,  
c/o The Public Library of N.S.W.,  
Macquarie Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

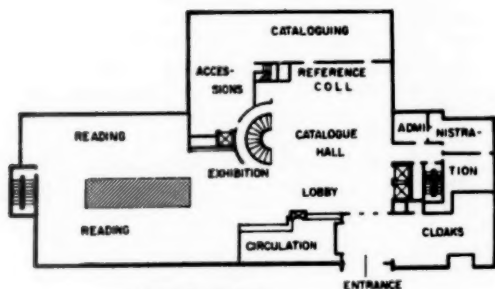




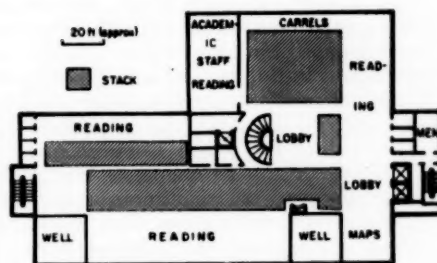
FIRST FLOOR



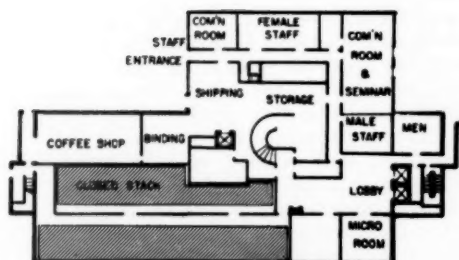
THIRD FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



BASEMENT

# BAILLIEU LIBRARY PLANS

# The New Building of the University of Tasmania Library

By D. H. BORCHARDT

## 1. *The present situation*

The new library building of the University of Tasmania is the third item on a building programme which, as a whole, involves the shifting of the University from the Domain site to the Sandy Bay site, a distance of about 3 miles. For reasons which I need not go into here, the University Council decided on the new site some 15 years ago, but until quite recently no permanent buildings had been constructed on the new site and the dissatisfaction with the state of affairs was one of the reasons which led to the Royal Commission into the University of Tasmania in 1955. The commissioners were unanimous and urgent in their recommendation that the programme of constructing permanent buildings should be started at once in order to improve the general facilities as well as to unite all sections of the University on one campus.

The library resources of the University are at present distributed as follows: The Central Library, on the Domain site, contains all books and periodicals on the humanities and on sociology except law; two Branch libraries at the Sandy Bay site, one containing books and periodicals on general science, biology, botany, geography, physics and zoology, the other serving exclusively the Faculty of Law; a third Branch Library (in close proximity to the Domain site) is a joint library of the Chemistry, Civil, and Mechanical Engineering departments of the University and of the Hobart Technical College. There are in addition three departmental libraries: in the Mathematics, Geology, and Electrical Engineering Buildings.

To make the situation clear beyond doubt I must add that all these are administered by the University Librarian under Statute XXIX of the University of Tas-

mania. Branch libraries are under the control of members of the Library staff; departmental libraries, while supervised by a senior member of the Library Staff, are run by departmental secretaries.

## 2. *The Future (Stage I)*

The availability of Commonwealth money permitted this University (as it did all other Australian universities) to go ahead with its building programme. Unfortunately the money available for the Library is inadequate to construct at once the whole building designed by Mr. John F. D. Scarborough, the eminent Melbourne architect appointed to prepare and carry out the plans.

Since, however, the move to unite the university on one campus had been decided upon and since the present storage and reading facilities of all sections of the Library are totally inadequate, the Library was given a very high priority on the list of buildings to be started. A decision had to be made on how to build such a section of the Library as would be possible within the limited finance available and after consultation with the architect it was decided to cut the plans horizontally. This decision was prompted, to a large extent, by the difficult nature of the soil on the building site which would possibly cause difficulties with future additions to a vertically cut building plan.

One considerable advantage arises from this decision. Our work rooms and indeed the lay-out of our whole ground floor can be given their ultimate shape and size. The planning of the entrance hall and of the reference areas and of the work rooms in relation to these is the most difficult task and it was a great relief to all concerned when the proposal was adopted to build the basement and the ground floor of the Library in 1959, and

to make endeavours to finish the remainder of the building by 1963.

The question of the moment is to provide in the greatly reduced floor area adequate shelving and seating for a rapidly growing university. Our present book-stock is about 110,000 volumes. By 1963 we expect to reach approximately 145,000 or 150,000. By the simple device of leaving out some of the walls in the basement and by using most of it as a book stack, we hope to accommodate about 120,000 volumes in that part of the library.

To ease the pressure on shelf space we shall retain the present Science Branch Library—which is already on the new site—as a storage room for little-used back sets of periodicals. Since a part of our total book-stock will stay in the departmental and branch libraries (Mathematics, Geology, Law and Engineering) the available space at the initial stage will be adequate for about four years.

#### *The Future (Stage II)*

Having explained so far what our makeshift arrangements will be during the period of transition, it may now be appropriate to describe the building as we hope it will be in 1963 and to give some general data regarding its size and shape.

The decision to build the Library in the form of a T did not originate either with the Architect or with the Librarian. The T shape was imposed upon us by a panel of Hobart architects who advised the University on the arrangement and lay-out of the whole campus. There is legitimate doubt as to whether the T-shape is the most convenient—however I would say unhesitatingly that it is more attractive than a cube or brick-shape building.

The total floor area developed on the given base is about 50,000 square feet spread over four floors and a mezzanine or half floor. By using an 11 ft. 3 in. and a 22 ft. 6 in. module the two sections of the T are divided structurally into three naves each. The principle of open access shelving is governing the whole lay-out and except for a small area in the basement and another on the mezzanine floor we

have aimed at making access to books as easy as possible for all readers.

It is intended to accommodate the sciences on the ground and mezzanine floors, the social sciences on the first floor and art and literatures on the smaller second floor. In terms of the Bibliographic Classification, this will imply that we have three groups of classes, A-K, L-U and V-Z. But of these certain classes will be largely housed in other buildings; as for instance S (Law) which will be administered as a branch library.

Special features include an archives section large enough to house collections of private, as well as some business, archives. The shelving for that material will be of the compactus type, and there will be a fire and burglar proof strong room to hold very valuable documents.

On the ground floor there will be a museum of classical antiquities. The University already possesses a small but representative collection of Greek vases. Plastercasts of works of the Greek sculptors will be purchased in the not too distant future and while there are not likely to be enough articles to justify their being housed in a separate building, the Library is only too glad to make room available. Because the plastercasts may be 7 ft. to 10 ft. in height when standing on their pedestal, the mezzanine floor will not extend above the museum. The museum will also house all art books.

On the mezzanine floor there will be a rare books room and an exhibition area, an academic staff reading room with provision for an electric urn and small sink, and a large seminar room. The books housed in the western wing will be part of the science collection. On the first and second floors there will be only book stacks and reader accommodation.

The complete building will house about 350,000 books and have seats for 500 readers.

Services to readers will be directed by the Deputy Librarian under whose immediate control will be the reference and the loan services. The bibliographic and general reference tools are located in the

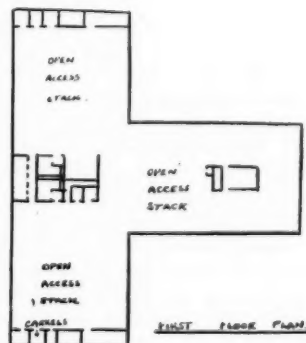
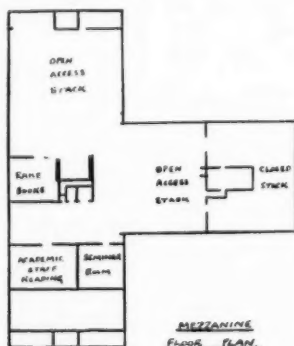
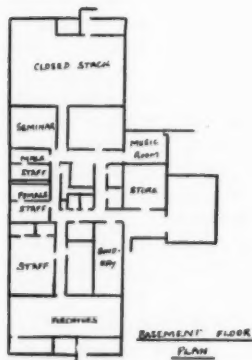
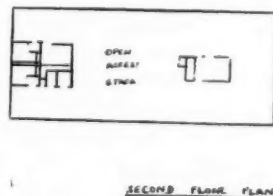
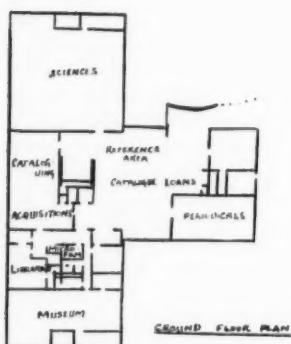
entrance hall and the room of the Reference Assistant and that of the Deputy Librarian. Interlibrary loans and assistance to research workers will be handled at this point.

Reserved books will be kept at the loan desk, but should the space available prove inadequate in the future, additional reserve collections will be kept on the second and third floors.

There will be a floor supervisor on each floor. This person need not be a profes-

sional librarian since his duties will be chiefly to keep order, and to shelve books. He will not be required to give assistance to readers but rather to advise them to consult the reference staff on all bibliographic problems.

The Library plans which are accompanying this short note are, I trust, self-explanatory; their simplicity is a credit to the architect. If all goes well, we hope to occupy the first stage of the building in 1960.



# Extensions to the Barr Smith Library University of Adelaide

By W. A. COWAN, LIBRARIAN

A brief description of the library services in the University of Adelaide was given in Volume 6 No. 2 (April, 1957) of the *Australian Library Journal*.

When the Barr Smith Library was completed in 1932 it consisted essentially of a large open Reading Room to accommodate 180 readers and 15,000 books on open access, spacious workrooms, and stacks under the Reading Room to hold about 100,000 volumes. The spaciousness of those early days gradually gave way to the present congestion which was caused by the need to find room for twice the number of readers and twice the number of books within the original area.

The modern planner can see in the present building many defects that were incorporated from the outset, just as the planners thirty years from now will see defects in even the best of today's library buildings. It is inevitable that changes in the philosophy of university education and improvements in constructional methods should tend to make buildings obsolete. The attention that is given today, however, to flexibility of design should make the process of obsolescence much slower than it has been in the past. At any rate, members of the staff of the Barr Smith Library appreciate the excellent physical conditions that this building has provided for them for so many years, and they think more of its merits than of the defects that must now be listed.

There was no provision for a Periodicals Room, so that within five years the spacious workrooms had to be reduced by half to provide a room in which readers could find all the journals currently

received by the Library. The main entrance corridor proved to be too narrow to cope with the increased number of students and the increasing size of modern portmanteaux. The circulation desk and the catalogues were located in the main Reading Room in which readers had no protection from the traffic coming through a single entrance and from the noise and disturbance which are inseparable from these two busy centres of library operations. In the Reading Room itself a ceiling-height varying from 23 to 34 feet achieved dignity but involved a wastage of space which is more obvious today only because modern developments in lighting, ventilation and construction have shown that lofty ceilings are not necessary. With an effective area of glazing equal to about one fifth of the floor-area the Reading Room has had good natural lighting. Artificial lighting, however, has been seriously inadequate. Even at the outset incandescent lamps, arranged in large grouped pendants, gave a light-intensity of only five foot-candles on the tables.

Extensions to the Library, which were begun in July 1958, gave an opportunity of overcoming some of these defects. The entrance corridor will be combined with the present cataloguing-room to form an enlarged vestibule where the catalogues, the circulation desk and the reserved books will be located. Bookcases about 4 ft. 6 in. high have already been placed between the pillars in the Reading Room to serve the double purpose of increasing its capacity to 25,000 volumes and of shielding readers from traffic by dividing the

room into six reading-areas. This arrangement considerably reduced the amount of noise in the Reading Room, and a further reduction should be brought about when the linoleum floor-covering is replaced with rubber tiles at the end of this year. The installation of five fluorescent units to take the place of the incandescent units has greatly improved the lighting, the average intensity on the tables being now 20 foot-candles. Finally, a gallery to be built in the Periodicals Room will increase its capacity for current journals by 50% and will bring the seating accommodation up from 76 to 100.

The original plan of the Library provided for a stack-block at the rear of the building. The height from the floor of the basement stacks to the main floor (7 ft. 8 in. plus 9 in. floor) became the vertical measuring rod for the whole structure, so that stairs and elevator landings were designed to suit the future stack-block, and the workrooms were equal in height to two or more future stack storeys. All would have been well in 1958 if in fact book-storage alone had to be considered. The real problem arose from the need to accommodate the increased number of readers and also the entire library staff in extensions which would have ceiling-heights of only 7 ft. 8 in. if floors were to correspond with those in the existing building. If there had been ample funds for complete air-conditioning there might have been little risk in adopting this ceiling-height. Fortunately the existing lift was designed to serve both the present building and the extensions. The future second lift will be placed beside it. There was no necessity, therefore, to make the floor-levels in the extensions correspond with those in the present building for the easy conveyance of goods since a door on the east side of each lift would provide for levels in the present building and a door in the west side would provide for levels in the extensions. It was finally decided to have floor-to-floor heights of 10 ft. 6 in., giving floor-to-ceiling heights of 9 ft. 10 in.

There will be a simple system of me-

chanical ventilation to blow in air through self-cleansing viscous filters, with provision for warming the air but not for cooling it.

Sprayed Vermiculite ceilings and linoleum-tile floor coverings should ensure a reasonable degree of quietness. Standard "demountable" partitions with steel or aluminium uprights and wooden panels and glazed tops will be used to enclose offices.

The first stage of the extensions consists of four levels on an area 72 ft. x 126 ft. The footings are designed for a second stage of three additional levels, giving seven in all. Only the northern half of each level (72 ft. x 72 ft.) will be available immediately for library purposes. The southern portion of each level will be used as temporary accommodation for a number of academic departments until they are able to move into permanent quarters within the next few years. The two portions will be separated in the meantime by sound-proof partitions which will not provide access from the one to the other.

On the first level the staff recreation-room, kitchen and rest-room will occupy an area 36 ft. x 18 ft. There will be accommodation for 60 readers at tables seating either four or six readers each around the outside walls. Book-stacks in the central area will take about 44,000 volumes.

On the second level, which is the main floor of the library, staff-quarters will occupy an area 72 ft. x 36 ft. This area adjoins the enlarged vestibule in which the catalogues, the circulation desk and the reserved book collection are located. Again around the outside walls of the remaining portion there will be tables for 24 readers. Central book-stacks will provide room for 37,000 volumes.

On the third level the section of the library staff dealing with the processing of periodicals will have an area 18 ft. x 72 ft. In the remaining portion there will be tables around the walls for 56 readers and central bookcases for 42,500 volumes.

On the fourth level there will be two



seminar rooms, a microfilm-room and a staff-study. The rest of this area will be kept in reserve and used either for book-stacks or for the accommodation of readers according to need.

The fourth level in the present building, which the library staff will vacate, will provide a combined Committee Room and Rare Book Room, a reading area with the Australian collection on wall-shelving, a large seminar room and an academic staff reading-room. The wall-shelving will provide space for 7000 volumes and there will be seats for 84 readers in the seminar rooms and reading-area.

On the three levels of the extensions to be used immediately, on the gallery to the Periodicals Room and on the vacated fourth level of the present building there will accordingly be provision for about 130,000 volumes and 250 readers. Almost certainly the fourth level which is being kept in reserve will be required mainly for reading-accommodation. Within 10 to 12 years the whole of the southern portion of the extensions will be taken over for library purposes, and in 20 to 25 years' time work will have to begin on the second stage of the extensions, providing three additional levels over the whole area.

## New State Library of Tasmania Building

By B. W. WRAY, STATE LIBRARIAN, TASMANIA

The building of the new State Library of Tasmania is planned to begin early in 1959. The final building will cost £615,000 without fittings, but it will be completed in two stages, and it is the first stage costing £310,000 on which a start will soon be made.

It is expected that the first stage of the building can be completed in two to three years, and it is hoped that the final stage can follow quickly afterwards. At present the State Library is housed in cramped and unsatisfactory quarters which were originally a Carnegie bequest. The library has long outgrown the building, and various services such as the archives section, the children's library, and sections dealing with municipal libraries and school libraries are dotted about the town. This dispersion of the service makes central control difficult, and results in duplication of records, bibliographies and catalogues.

As the first stage of the new library will not hold all the services, and all the books, it was necessary to decide whether to house services centrally and disperse some of the book stack, or to keep the books toge-

ther, and continue with the services dispersed. It has been decided to bring as many services as possible into the building, and farm out some of the little-used books and public records. Even so the film library, the recorded music library and the bindery will continue in their present locations.

The site for the new State Library is very near the centre of Hobart, and near the main transport routes. The building is functional in design, mainly of glass and concrete and based on a module of approximately 22 ft. In the first phase there are four storeys plus an excavated area under the building which will be used as a staff car park for 14 cars.

The Ground floor is entirely taken up by a public car park housing 24 cars, a foyer, and a large planted area inside the foyer incorporating an ornamental fountain. The foyer will house a cloakroom, the switchboard and public telephones, also an enquiry desk. As the library departments proper start on the first floor, it was felt desirable to have a trained member of staff available immediately

inside the main entrance and an enquiry desk has therefore been sited in the foyer. This desk, which will be clearly seen from the street through the large glass wall, will be equipped with quick reference tools, timetables and local information charts, which will enable the assistant to deal with casual enquiries at that point. Enquirers can also be directed to the appropriate department when necessary.

There is a lift for public use starting from the foyer and a wide staircase which leads to the main lending departments on the first floor. The Adult Lending Department which measures 61 ft. x 91 ft. is immediately on the head of the stairway. There is no wall or partition between the reader and the department. Adjacent to the Adult Lending Library, divided from it by a glass screen is the Children's Library, an L-shaped room measuring 2,600 square feet. The charging desk sited near the head of the stairs will serve both departments and readers' advisers will be available in the Adult and Children's departments apart from the staff of the charging desk. The arrangement of shelving in the Lending Library is still to be finally agreed on but the aim is to create within the large open space "Zones of interest"—or broad subject divisions—defined by the grouping of shelving and fittings.

This Lending Library provides the lending service for the City of Hobart and is available to readers throughout the State. With a total State population of less than 350,000 there is a complete integration of stock between the Lending Library and Municipal Services in the State, thus achieving economy in provision, and maximum use of the available stock.

The furnishing of the Children's Library will be informal and gay and one area of the room will be provided with a low platform and fittings to provide a "story telling corner". A small wash room is provided for children whose hands may need a little sweetening before handling books.

The section of the first floor furthest from the public entrance, an area of 1,600 sq. ft. will house the cataloguing section. There is a second passenger lift and a

book lift at this end of the building, which will be used by staff and for book deliveries. On the second floor will be located the State Reference Library and the Archives Section. Seating for 80 students is provided in the Reference Library, and there is stack accommodation for some 40,000 volumes. This stack will be separated from the reading room by the staff enclosure, which provides for five staff, and is formed by bookcases 4ft. high. The policy in designing this enclosure has been to allow senior members of the staff to work in close proximity to the enquiry desk and the catalogues, whilst still allowing sufficient detachment to prevent constant interruption. The public will be allowed access to this book stack, which will of course contain the most used stock.

The Archives Section will provide seating for 12 students, and there is office accommodation for 5 staff. This office accommodation has been shelved to house certain special collections which need to be used under close supervision. The vast bulk of the public records will remain in vaults and storage spaces elsewhere and only the frequently used material can be brought into the main building at this stage. The present aim is to provide good working accommodation for staff and students, and housing for the more important and valuable Australian and Tasmanian collections.

The third floor of the new building will house administrative departments and will not be open to the general public. Offices for the State Librarian, the Deputy, Accounts Section, and the Training Officer are sited on this floor, also a Board Room which will also be used for training lectures, seminars, staff meetings and Library Association committees. The main part of this floor will be occupied by Municipal Services Section and the Children's Services which are responsible for the exchange of books in the municipal libraries in the State. These services need ample stack room, and bench working space. The book lifts are conveniently placed in this department, and there is stack room on this floor for over 80,000 volumes. Naturally the reserve stock

required by these services is far less than this, at present it is some 20,000 volumes, so there will still be accommodation available for the lesser used books in the Reference Library. There will be no partitions in this general stack area so as to leave the accommodation as fluid as possible.

The fourth floor is of pent-house type. The caretaker's flat will be provided here, and there will be generous provision for the staff rooms. There are locker rooms and cloakrooms, including showers. A large room is provided as a Rest Room, which we hope will also be equipped for games. There is a Common Room adjacent to the Kitchen which will have facilities for preparing light meals. In addition there is a large open terrace from which one will see the incomparable views of the River Derwent and Mount Wellington.

The heating throughout the building is provided by a forced hot air system, thermostatically controlled, the air being filtered in the process. The building is not air conditioned as it was agreed that the climatic conditions in Tasmania

would not warrant the additional expenditure. The fittings in the stack area will be of metal, but in the Lending and Children's Library they will be made of polished wood, yet to be selected.

The overall dimensions of the building are 120 ft. x 88 ft. and the ceiling height on each of the floors is 11 ft. 3 ins.

Finally it must again be emphasised that this is the first stage only of the building, and the planning has been an exercise in ingenuity to find room for as many departments as possible. In doing this we realise that we are creating problems which can only be solved by the final completion of the whole building. The second stage of the building will allow for the expansion of all departments; it will provide accommodation for the film library, and the recorded music library and also for a small lecture hall. In assigning space in the first stage an attempt has been made to reduce the amount of upheaval which must take place when the whole building is completed and departments move to their final locations.

#### COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL LIBRARY, CANBERRA

#### VACANCIES

There are several vacancies at the professional level for university graduates in Arts, Economics, Commerce, Law, or Science.

The varied responsibilities of the Library to the Commonwealth Parliament and government departments and to Australian research and bibliography in general provide unusual opportunities for a satisfying career and the employment of special capacities. Professional training will be given after appointment to those without previous library experience. Advancement is available as vacancies occur for those who have demonstrated special capacity.

Salary on appointment is according to academic achievement and library experience within the range £966-£1416 per annum for men and £796-£1246 per annum for women.

Applications, including the names of three referees, should be made immediately in writing to the Librarian, Commonwealth National Library, Canberra, A.C.T.

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# The Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services and the Australian Bibliographical Centre

By I. D. RAYMOND, M.A., M.S., AND AUDREY M. NOLAN, B.A.  
*Australian Bibliographical Centre, Commonwealth National Library*

## *Beginnings*

During World War II and the immediate post-war period bibliographical activity in this country made great advances. With further development confidently predicted, it became apparent that planning in the interests of co-ordination and economy of effort was needed. A similar need felt in many countries was reflected in the convening of two important overseas conferences at which Australia was represented, the Royal Society's Conference on Scientific Information in 1948 and the UNESCO Conference on the Improvement of Bibliographical Services in November 1950. The latter conference reported [1] its conviction that in each country there should be established a recognized planning organization and that each nation should designate an appropriate institution as a national bibliographical information centre. Australia was already moving towards these objectives. The Library Association of Australia had in August 1950 formally constituted a Committee on Bibliography and Cataloguing to succeed two committees of the Australian Institute of Librarians. The conferences of Commonwealth and State library authorities held in Canberra in 1949 and 1953 included in their agenda several bibliographical matters along with other matters of mutual library interest. The agenda of the 1953 conference listed an item submitted by the Commonwealth

National Library: "The need for developing national bibliographical services, including union cataloguing and the central cataloguing of Australian material". The New South Wales delegation made a plea for a national planning body for bibliographical services.

## *Working Party on*

### *National Bibliographical Services*

From the discussion there emerged a most significant resolution:

[2]: "That this Conference set up a small working-party, comprising laymen and librarians, to consider a plan for national bibliographical services; that the working-party consist of Sir John Morris, who is also the incoming President of the Library Association of Australia, Mr. G. C. Remington, Dr. I. Clunies Ross, Mr. H. L. White, and Mr. G. D. Richardson; that Sir John Morris be chairman and convener of the working-party; and that it be asked to meet as soon as convenient and report back to the next meeting of the Conference."

Mr. C. A. Burmester of the Commonwealth National Library was appointed secretary of the Working Party. In May 1954 a questionnaire was circulated among a number of libraries of all the main categories: Commonwealth and State public, parliamentary, university and teachers' college, municipal, shire, regional, Commonwealth and State department, the C.S.I.R.O., and other special. A total of

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. General report of the Conference on the Improvement of Bibliographical Services. Paris, 1950 (UNESCO/CUA/5) p. 4, 7-8.

[2] Conference of Representatives of the Commonwealth National Library and State Library Authorities—Working Party on National Bibliographical Services. Report. [Canberra, Commonwealth National Library, 1955] p. 2.

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VIII



86 libraries responded, giving the Working Party a good deal of basic information and plenty of suggestions for the report which it presented to the conference of the Commonwealth National Library, State Library Authorities and the Library Association of Australia in July, 1955.

#### *Establishment of A.A.C.O.B.S.*

The Conference accepted the Working Party's recommendations in principle and largely in substance. In a resolution which stressed the importance of co-operation between Commonwealth and State institutions the conference urged the establishment of an Australian Advisory Committee on Bibliographical Services and an Australian Bibliographical Centre, a measure that would be in line with the recommendations of UNESCO. The Committee, it was proposed, should include representatives of the Commonwealth National Library, the State libraries, the State library boards, the C.S.I.R.O., the universities and the Library Association of Australia, while the secretariat, the Australian Bibliographical Centre, should administratively be part of the Commonwealth National Library.

The authorities concerned all agreed to representation on the Committee, and the first meeting was convened in Canberra on 30th April 1956, the members meanwhile changing the title of the organization which thus became the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. Further meetings were held in Canberra on 23rd August, 1957, and 15th August, 1958.

#### *Personnel of A.A.C.O.B.S.*

At the 1957 meeting membership of the Council was widened to allow each State library and each State library board to be individually represented. Representation on the Council is now as follows:

Senator the Hon. Sir Alister McMullin, K.C.M.G., President of the Senate, Chairman of the Committee of the Commonwealth National Library, *ex officio*. (Chairman of the Council); Mr. H. L. White, Librarian, Commonwealth National Library; Miss B. Doubleday, Chief Librarian, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial

Research Organization; Mr. G. C. Remington, Deputy Chairman, Library Board of New South Wales; Mr. J. W. Metcalfe, [3] Principal Librarian, Public Library of New South Wales; Rev. Dr. C. Irving Benson, O.B.E., Chairman, Free Library Service Board of Victoria; Mr. C. A. McCallum, Chief Librarian, Public Library of Victoria; Mr. G. K. D. Murphy, Vice-Chairman, Library Board of Queensland; Mr. J. L. Stapleton, State Librarian, Public Library of Queensland; the Hon. Mr. Justice Abbott, Chairman, Libraries Board of South Australia; Mr. H. C. Bridson, Principal Librarian, Public Library of South Australia; Professor F. Alexander, Chairman, Library Board of Western Australia; Mr. F. A. Sharr, State Librarian, State Library of Western Australia; the Hon. Mr. Justice Crisp, Chairman, Tasmanian Library Board; Mr. B. W. Wray, State Librarian, State Library of Tasmania; Professor H. Burton, Principal, Canberra University College; Mr. A. L. G. McDonald, Librarian, Australian National University; Associate Professor K. F. Russell, University of Melbourne; Miss M. Ellinor Archer, M.B.E., Past President, Library Association of Australia; Mr. G. D. Richardson, Hon. General Treasurer, Library Association of Australia.

Early in its existence the Council suffered a severe blow through the untimely death in July 1956 of its first chairman, the Hon. Sir John Morris, K.C.M.G., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. At the time Sir John Morris was also president of the Library Association of Australia and chairman of the Tasmanian Library Board. His place as chairman of the Council was taken by Senator the Hon. Sir Alister McMullin, K.C.M.G., President of the Senate, who succeeded the late Hon. A. G. Cameron, M.P., as the representative of the Committee of the Commonwealth National Library.

#### *Work of A.A.C.O.B.S. and its Committees*

The Council's functions may be summarized as follows:

1. To plan and recommend to appro-

[3] Mr. Metcalfe in his capacity as President of the Library Association of Australia is also one of the Association's three representatives.

priate authorities the further development of Australian bibliographical services;

2. To recommend measures for the better co-ordination of existing bibliographical services;
3. To examine projects submitted for consideration by libraries and other organizations;
4. To co-operate with the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography.

The Council meets at least once a year. Each member of the Council, including the chairman, has one vote, and matters before the Council are decided by a simple majority of those voting.

In 1956 the Council appointed a Survey Committee of three, Mr. H. L. White, Mr. C. A. McCallum and Mr. G. D. Richardson, to examine and report on Australian bibliographical activity and achievement, to indicate the most urgent needs, and to recommend ways of meeting them. The Committee consulted some 1,215 libraries and related agencies by letter and questionnaire and received about 400 responses. Learned societies, government departments, business organizations and other corporate bodies as well as individuals were asked to co-operate in the survey which was in some respects wider than that carried out by the Working Party in 1954, though less intense in some other respects. The Committee prepared a *Draft Summary of Australian Bibliography and Bibliographical Services* from the holdings and records of the Commonwealth National Library, the Public Library of New South Wales and the Public Library of Victoria, the major sources readily available at the time. The full text of the *Draft Summary* was circulated in the first half of 1957 to 32 of the principal libraries, and sample pages were sent to the 1,183 other libraries and agencies covered by the survey. The request for additions and suggested improvements to the list met with such an encouraging response that it was possible to compile a supplement to the *Draft Summary* in August 1957. Entries for new bibliographies and older material which had passed unnoticed are still being grate-

fully received by the Australian Bibliographical Centre for listing in a new edition.

The Survey Committee's report to the Council in August 1957 listed in order of priority some of the bibliographical tasks for which its inquiries had shown there was a need. In accepting the report the Council passed several resolutions covering the Committee's recommendations. It decided that the *Draft Summary* and its supplement had considerable value as a reference tool and that a new edition, showing the location of listed works in the main libraries, should be prepared by the Australian Bibliographical Centre for sale under the title, *Australian Bibliography and Bibliographical Services*. It asked the Commonwealth National Library to widen the scope of *Australian Public Affairs Information Service: a Subject Index to Current Literature* in relation to periodicals devoted to the humanities and social sciences; and it recommended increased attention to the indexing of scientific and technical periodicals, the establishment of a new periodicals index to be undertaken if necessary. The Centre was commissioned to prepare a union list of the newspapers collected by the leading libraries of Australia. The Commonwealth National Library was asked to provide subject entries for government publications listed in its *Australian Government Publications* and the *Annual Catalogue of Australian Publications*, and to investigate with the Public Library of New South Wales the possibility of compiling a cumulated list of government publications, 1936 to date, with a subject approach. The Council asked that the Library Association of Australia look into the possibility of compiling a new edition of the *Directory of Special Libraries in Australia* to cover special collections within general libraries. To investigate the difficult question of union cataloguing the Council appointed a special committee of three members, Mr. H. L. White, Mr. G. D. Richardson and Miss B. Doubleday.

During the twelve months following the meeting of August 1957 the two commit-

tees of the Council, using the facilities of the Australian Bibliographical Centre, investigated questions coming within their terms of reference, and in August 1958 presented their reports to the Council.

The Survey Committee reported that the *Australian Science Index* compiled by the C.S.I.R.O. was doing much to achieve the wider coverage of Australian scientific and technical periodicals which the Council had recommended in 1957, and that the additional indexing needed could be absorbed through a sharing of responsibility by the *Australian Public Affairs Information Service* and the *Australian Science Index*. The Council passed a resolution in support of this further co-operation in indexing. The Survey Committee, particularly during the past year, had been made aware of a widely-felt and growing need to know the resources of libraries in various fields and of an interest in rationalization of collecting which such knowledge would make possible. To the Committee's expressed opinion that an early survey of the resources of major libraries was desirable the Council responded with a resolution asking for an outline survey of the library resources and types of holdings of major libraries for submission to the next meeting together with a plan for a wider survey. The Council also asked the Survey Committee to report on the distribution of all government published and printed documents in relation to bibliography.

The Committee on Union Cataloguing, reporting on its investigation of the need for a national union catalogue and methods of establishing one, outlined a proposal for a union catalogue of current monograph accessions that might be maintained at the Commonwealth National Library, using cards sent in regularly by co-operating libraries. Such a measure, it was thought, might be undertaken without prejudice to any plan that might later be adopted for the large-scale copying of the catalogues of major libraries. The Council's discussions resulted in a direction to the Committee to continue its work and, specifically, in collaboration with the Commonwealth National Library to ex-

plore the practical steps leading to the establishment of a national union catalogue of current monograph accessions.

#### *Australian Bibliographical Centre*

The programme of the Council is largely put into effect through the Australian Bibliographical Centre which is subsidized by the Commonwealth Government and, as noted above, is administered by the Commonwealth National Library. It has a staff of four, including two professional librarians. The general functions of the Centre are:

1. To provide a secretariat for the Council;
2. To collect information for consideration by the Council;
3. To compile and arrange for the publication of bibliographical works recommended by the Council;
4. To arrange for other projects to be carried out as recommended by the Council;
5. To serve as the recognized centre for all requests not met elsewhere for bibliographical information, and for international inquiries;
6. To put inquirers, when necessary, into touch with other sources of bibliographical information.

As part of its secretarial function the Centre reports regularly to UNESCO on bibliographical developments in Australia. Reports covering 1954-55, 1956 and 1957 have been prepared for inclusion in the annual UNESCO publication, *Bibliographical Services Throughout the World*. The first two reports were also put out by the Centre in 1956 and 1957 respectively in processed form with the title *Bibliographical Services in Australia* and distributed to the larger libraries. The report covering 1957 was not issued in this form but a revision, dated August 1958 and bearing the title *Bibliographical Services in Australia, July 1957 — June 1958*, has been given similar limited distribution.

The staff of the Centre carries out a daily check of material entering the Commonwealth National Library, and compiles on cards an index of bibliographies, reference guides and reading lists as part of its routine work.

The Centre has full access to the collection of the Commonwealth National Library. It also maintains vertical files and card indexes to supplement those which the Commonwealth National Library has built up. Several libraries already send the Centre two copies of each bibliography they prepare, a practice which is proving of great value in the work of the Centre, and one which all libraries are recommended to adopt where possible. A note of the existence of bibliographies which have been compiled but cannot be sent is also very useful. The staff of the Centre is always glad to have information on developments in co-operative bibliographical work such as union cataloguing and central cataloguing and in the fields of periodicals indexing and training in bibliography.

Material in the files of the Centre is made available and the staff searches for bibliographical information as libraries request. The Centre, however, is not intended to duplicate or replace the work of the various libraries, and it is assumed that individual inquirers will refer to the libraries in their States before the services of the Centre are asked for.

The Centre lacks the facilities and the authority to compile special bibliographies on request by inquirers, but, as indicated above, it has undertaken the compilation of two bibliographies which it is expected will be of considerable value in Australia. Returns from over twenty libraries have been received for listing in *Australian Bibliography and Bibliographical Services*, and the editorial work is well advanced. Publication before mid-1959 is the aim. The *Union List of Newspapers* also includes entries from over twenty libraries. It is being compiled in two sections, the first taking in newspapers published overseas and the second those published in Australia and its territories.

Publication of the first part by mid-1959 is hoped for, but a detailed listing of holdings of Australian newspapers will take longer.

#### *Need for Co-operation*

The Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services, the national planning body in bibliographical matters, welcomes helpful suggestions and is ready to accept new and practical ideas. The Australian Bibliographical Centre, the organizing and executive agency for national bibliographical projects, is equally keen to keep up with developments. Tasks already planned and others as yet only contemplated will help all libraries to meet the need for general information and research material as it arises from day to day. But the Council as an advisory body and the Centre as its agent can accomplish little without the help of those same libraries which they set out to serve. The prospect of nation-wide co-operation has caught the imagination of those people closely associated with the work of the Council. Many librarians have given much time and care to the preparation of entries for *Australian Bibliography and Bibliographical Services* and the *Union List of Newspapers*; others have sent copies of newly-compiled bibliographies or a note of them to the Centre; others again are helping in the indexing of periodicals and in a variety of other important bibliographical tasks. There are other ways in which librarians will be asked to help in the common interest. It is certain that the development of research will impose additional demands upon individual libraries, and that there will be a constant need to maintain improved standards in cataloguing and indexing. Australian librarians will appreciate the importance of their contribution to this increased bibliographical activity.

## Our new Honorary Members

### MR. JUSTICE J. A. FERGUSON

John Alexander Ferguson, Australia's foremost bibliographer, was born in Invercargill, New Zealand, on 15th December, 1882, the eldest son of the Rev. John Ferguson. The family moved to Sydney. The father, as minister of old St. Stephen's from 1894 to 1925, carried on the long tradition of outstanding Presbyterian divines: he was Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, 1909-10, and with the Rev. John Flynn one of the founders, and first chairman, of the Australian Inland Mission.

J. A. Ferguson graduated Bachelor of Arts in the University of Sydney at the age of 19 with honours in Latin and the University medal in Logic and Mental Philosophy. Logic went with law and in 1905, with a long list of prizes to his credit, he graduated Bachelor of Laws with honours. Just fifty years later the University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his outstanding record of scholarship.

In May 1905 he was admitted to the Bar where he practised in all jurisdictions but particularly in equity and constitutional law, and in industrial arbitration. His first mature published work was an article in the now defunct *Commonwealth Law Review* in November, 1905, on "A defect in our commercial law". He lectured in industrial law and became recognized as a leading figure in it, and his practice led him to appear before the High Court and the Privy Council. In May, 1936, he was appointed a justice and member of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales and remained on the Bench until his retirement in 1952.

Meanwhile, however, in the midst of a busy life that included a period from 1921 to 1936 as Procurator of the Presbyterian

Church, he was developing a taste and an aptitude for bibliography, for historical research, and for the collecting of Australiana. The first volume of his *Bibliography of the New Hebrides and a history of the mission press* was published in 1917. Then over the years followed books and articles, original contributions to history and to bibliography, ranging from "George Peat and his Ferry" to "Edward Smith Hall and the Monitor"; from "The Reverend Samuel Marsden" to "Studies in Australian Bibliography" and "The Howes and their Press". These alone established his reputation, but far above them came, in 1941, the first volume of the great *Bibliography of Australia*, now with its fourth published volume bringing Australian bibliography to 1850 in something more than 6,000 entries. It remains the only work yet published that every serious historian of the period must use.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1927 and in 1940 crowned a second term as president of the Society by a munificent gift of the furnishing and equipment of the Society's council room in its headquarters at History House, newly acquired under his leadership. With his learning in the law and in Australiana he was appointed a trustee of the Public Library of New South Wales in October, 1935, and in the following March was elected to the Trustees' Mitchell Library Committee, becoming a member of the Standing Committee when it replaced other committees in 1953. In 1957 he was created an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

He has been an active and interested member of the Library Association of Australia since its inception and has readily given expert advice and help from his great store of learning. His collection



of Australiana, great enough even in 1928 to make a substantial contribution to the *Bibliography of Captain James Cook*, contains much that is unique and more that is very rare. Much of it has already been transferred to the Commonwealth National Library. Patient, courteous, and unassuming, he has nevertheless given a lifetime of service to Australian bibliography, to libraries, and to the Australian community, that few can hope to equal.

G.D.R.

PROFESSOR MORRIS MILLER

Born in Natal in 1881 and educated at Wesley College and the University of Melbourne, Morris Miller began his career as a librarian in 1900, when he joined the staff of the Public Library of Victoria. The active part which he played in library affairs in the state is recorded in "Some Public Library Memories" (Typescript, 1954). In 1902 he became a member of the original Library Association of Australasia. Ten years later, with A. E. McMicken, he was responsible for founding the Library Association of Victoria, and he became its first Chairman. Following a visit to Europe in 1908-9, he delivered a number of lectures on the function of the library which were remarkable for their imaginative and progressive approach to library problems. It is particularly noteworthy that in these lectures he strongly advocated the development of inter-library loan services similar to those operating in Europe and the United States some nineteen years before the first inter-library loan agreement was reached by the University libraries.

In 1913 Morris Miller was appointed Lecturer in Mental and Moral Science in the University of Tasmania, where he subsequently held the positions of Professor of Psychology and Vice-Chancellor — the latter from 1933 until 1946. During his term as Vice-Chancellor, the academic status of the University was advanced substantially, and it was due to his foresight that the Sandy Bay Rifle Range was acquired as a site for the new University which is now in course of construction. For several years he conducted research

and lectured on mental testing and as a result of a visit to the United States in 1921 to study the institutional care of mental defectives he was appointed Director of the State Psychological Clinic and Chairman of the Mental Deficiency Board. Both of these positions he held for more than twenty years.

In 1928 Sir William Sowden sought his co-operation in securing the support of the states for a meeting held in Melbourne to discuss the formation of a new Australia-wide library association. This meeting resulted in the foundation of the Australian Library Association.

When he left Victoria to accept an academic appointment, Morris Miller thought he had left his library work behind him, but this was not to be the case. At the time, the library at the University of Tasmania was in a sorry state. Morris Miller's assistance was solicited for the organization and expansion of the library, and he carried most of the responsibility for its development until a full-time librarian was appointed in 1945.

His interest in libraries led to his appointment, in 1917, to the Board of the Tasmanian Public Library, and he held the office of Chairman from 1923 until the reconstitution of the state services in 1943. As Chairman, he was instrumental in acquiring the valuable Walker Collection of Australiana for the State Library. The story of his connection with libraries in Tasmania is told in "Some Tasmanian Library Memories" (*Library Opinion*, Feb.-June, 1954).

While he was in Victoria, Morris Miller's studies in imperial policy brought him into touch with Sir John Quick who, as a result of his intense patriotism, was inspired with the wish to develop in Australians a feeling of pride in their literary heritage. When nearing his 80th year, Quick began collecting data for a universal Australian bibliography. Finding the field too large, he narrowed it to pure literature. Shortly afterwards he died, and the work was taken over by Morris Miller, who had already been assisting him with it. The complete work, entitled "Australian Literature from its Beginnings to 1935: a



bibliographical and descriptive survey" was published in 1940 with a grant in aid from the Commonwealth Government. It was never intended as an exhaustive record of Australian Literature, but was designed as a popular guide which would show the range and scope of a wide variety of works, and give a picture of the development of creative writing in this country.

The compilation of the bibliography was fraught with difficulties. It was financed on a shoestring, and it was only through his visits to the capital cities as Vice-Chancellor that Morris Miller was able to have access to material in the other states. Also, at that time the major Australian libraries collected novels by Australian writers only if they were received under the Copyright Acts, or dealt with Australia, and so he spent many hours travelling around the suburbs of capital cities, searching for secondhand shops which might hide some Australiana, particularly fiction. Most of the books which he collected in the course of his searches are now in the State Library of Tasmania.

Although a revised edition of "Australian Literature", edited by F. T. Macartney, was published in 1956, it differs in many respects from the original, and by no means supersedes it.

The great variety of his publications and of the positions which he has held bears witness to the enormous range of Morris Miller's activities. His interest in archives led to the publication of "Pressmen and Governors" (1952), and he has contributed numerous monographs and articles in the fields of literature, philosophy, psychology and politics.

Among the honours conferred on him are those of Emeritus Professor of the University of Tasmania; Fellow of the International Institute of Arts and Letters; Honorary Member of the Australian Humanities Research Council and Fellow of the British Psychological Society; and at the present time he is Patron of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association and of the Tasmanian Fellowship of Australian writers.

M.R.

## Personnel

The Editor would like to hear of appointments, resignations and transfers of professional personnel, so that they can be noted in these columns.

D. L. ALLEN, formerly Senior Administrative Officer, Surrey County Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian at the State Library of Western Australia.

Miss C. CAMPBELL-SMITH has been appointed to the new post of Chief Librarian at the Canberra University College. Miss Campbell-Smith is a graduate of the University of Tasmania and began her career in librarianship as a library assistant in the Bureau of Statistics, Canberra. She was appointed Librarian of the Bureau in 1944. In 1948, at the request of the Public Service Board, she was granted twelve months' leave of absence by the Commonwealth Statistician to undertake the setting up of a library in the Department of External Territories. During that time she attended conferences of the South

Pacific Commission as Documentation Officer. Appointed as Assistant Librarian at the College in 1949 and Librarian in 1951, Miss Campbell-Smith has built up almost from the beginning an undergraduate library which now contains some 45,000 volumes. Granted leave of absence in 1952, she visited many university and other libraries in Britain and Europe, and has since studied Russian and Italian to assist her in her work. Miss Campbell-Smith is a councillor of the A.C.T. Branch of the Library Association of Australia and Corresponding Secretary to the University Libraries Section.

Miss R. DREW, formerly librarian, Forbes Municipal Library, N.S.W., has been appointed Librarian, Adult Education Library, Perth.

C. C. FLOREY, formerly Deputy Librarian of Peterborough Public Library (England) has been appointed Librarian, Scarborough Public Library, Western Australia.

N. H. HOUGHTON, formerly Senior Assistant, Holborn Reference Library (London) is Assistant Librarian at the State Library of Western Australia.

J. W. METCALFE, President of the Association since the death of Sir John Morris in 1956, has accepted an invitation by the Council of the University of New South Wales to become its University Librarian, with professorial status and salary and a seat on the Professorial Board. He expects to take up his new duties on Monday, 2nd February, 1959. Mr. Metcalfe was born on 16th May, 1901. He worked in the New South Wales Department of Taxation for a short time after leaving Fort Street Boys' High School, and on 16th May, 1917, he was appointed a junior library assistant in the Fisher Library in the University of Sydney. Whilst there he matriculated and in 1923 he graduated with first class honours in modern history. In 1927 he won the University's Beauchamp prize for an essay on the modern novel. On 1st December, 1923, Mr. Metcalfe was appointed a library assistant in the Public Library of New South Wales. He became Deputy Principal Librarian on 13th December, 1932, and has been Principal Librarian since 2nd March, 1942. In 1934 on the recommendation of Mr. Ralph Munn, following the Munn-Pitt survey, he received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and visited libraries in America, Great Britain, and Europe. In the following year he became a Fellow of the Library Association. From 1935 onwards Mr. Metcalfe was closely associated with Mr. G. C. Remington, the founder of the Free Library Movement, and when the Minister for Education set up the Libraries Advisory Committee in 1937 as a result of the Free Library Movement's work, Mr. Metcalfe became its secretary. The *Library Act* of 1939, which was drafted mainly by this committee, was one of the three main objectives of the Free Library Movement. The other two were a new building for the Public Library of New South Wales, and a library school. The former of these was largely achieved by the completion

of the main wing of the Library's building in 1942, the final wing of which is to be begun in 1959. The latter has not yet been established at post-graduate standard. Part of Mr. Metcalfe's responsibility as Librarian of the University of New South Wales will, however, be the establishment and supervision of courses in library training that may be approved.

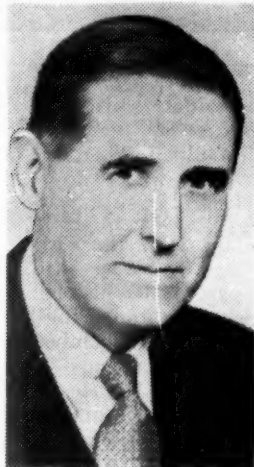
A full account of Mr. Metcalfe's work both within the Public Library of New South Wales and for libraries generally, as well as his work in founding the Australian Institute of Librarians, now the Library Association of Australia, and in its subsequent history, has yet to be written. Of his status as a librarian, a teacher, and a thinker, there is no doubt. The Association will wish him well in his new work and congratulates the University of New South Wales on the choice that it has made for its first Librarian.

G.D. Richardson.

ANDREW D. OSBORN returned to Australia in September, 1958, after more than 30 years in library work in the United States to take over the Librarianship of the University of Sydney when Mr. Steel retires. Osborn was born in Launceston, and spent his boyhood in Melbourne. He attended Wesley College and the University of Melbourne. He joined the staff of the Commonwealth National Library in 1921 while it occupied quarters in the Parliament Building of Victoria. He was one of the first librarians to go to Canberra in 1927 and had charge of setting up the collections there when they were moved from Melbourne. Later in the same year he sailed to America to join his father and mother, brothers and sisters there. The writer of this article well remembers the day when Andrew arrived at the New York Public Library and applied for a position which he obtained without delay. The quality of his keen analytical mind was demonstrated so immediately and effectively that he received the unusual opportunity to serve temporarily in almost all the Divisions in that busiest research Library in the western world. Within six months there were few if any of the more

than 600 members of the staff who knew as much about the Library and its problems as he did. During eight years at the New York Public Library Osborn worked at the Information Desk and in the Preparation Division. On his own time he obtained a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University writing his dissertation on the German philosopher, Husserl. He made a trip to Europe on a Rockefeller Fellowship. He received his Library degree from the University of Michigan's two year course—in one year, something which no one else as far as I know has accomplished. This was followed by a half year spent in organising a new library school at the University of Southern California and a year teaching at the Library School at the University of Michigan. In 1938 he went to the Harvard Library as Chief of the Serial Section and after a year became head of the Catalogue Department. During his 20 years at Harvard, he attained the rank of an Associate Librarian and as a member of the Academic Staff taught courses on Australia and South Africa. He also extended his influence throughout the American library world in a remarkably large number of directions for one whose major assignment was in the field of cataloguing.

Dr. Osborn's "The Crisis in Cataloguing", presented before the Association



DR. A. D. OSBORN

of Research Libraries in 1941, was a major landmark in the "Agonizing Re-appraisal" which led to cataloguing simplification in American libraries. His volume on "Serial Publications" is one of the important publications on technical library problems. His contributions, through a long series of surveys at the Library of Congress, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois Library School, the Library of the State Department, the Army Medical Library, the New York State Library and many others, have been great. His work in five different library schools has left its mark on a large number of men and women who are already in senior library positions. His influence on the younger librarians at the New York Public Library and at Harvard has been noteworthy as he brought to them the realization that library work was exciting and also full of intellectual content. His valiant efforts as Carl Milam's right hand man at the United Nations Library, and later as Interim Librarian there, helped to keep that struggling library on its feet and should not be forgotten.

Osborn's extra-mural work in the past two years alone, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on a third edition of the Union List of Serials; as A.L.A. representative in Germany to discuss the co-ordination of cataloguing rules and practices; and as the author of a study for the Council on Library Resources on "Cataloguing at the Source" remind me of the loss his return to Australia will be to American Librarianship and also of the great contribution that he can be counted on to make to Australian librarianship.

*Keyes D. Metcalf.*

G. A. STAFFORD, formerly Assistant Librarian, National Coal Board, Mining Research Establishment (U.K.) has been appointed an Assistant Librarian at the State Library of Western Australia.

I. TWEEDIE, Assistant Librarian at the State Library of Western Australia is to take a one year internship at Lancashire County Libraries.

Miss BEATRICE WINES has been appointed Assistant Librarian at the Fisher

Library, University of Sydney. Miss Wines has been on the staff of the Fisher Library since 1924 and was previously Officer in Charge of Reference and Circulation.

BERNARD W. WRAY has recently taken up the post of State Librarian of Tasmania after over 20 years of varied library experience in England. Born in Leeds in Yorkshire in 1914, his first appointment was as a Library Assistant in a branch library of that city. Leeds has a population of about half a million and is one of the most progressive library authorities in England. During his seven years in the Leeds Public Library, Mr. Wray served in the Reference Library, the Commercial and Technical Library, and as Assistant in charge of the Yorkshire Regional Library System. This System is an organisation for inter-lending books between some 60 libraries serving a total population of four and a half millions. In 1938 Mr. Wray was appointed Librarian to a small town near Manchester, with a population of 25,000. The library was derelict, never having had a librarian in the place, and at the age of 23 he was able to reorganise the service and rebuild the library—thus making a great many mistakes at an age when he was best able to profit from them. This library re-opened on the ominous date, September 4th, 1939, and shortly afterwards Mr. Wray left to spend six years in the Army. In 1946 he returned to Denton for a short period and then accepted an appointment as Branch Supervisor to the Lancashire County Library.

This County Library serves over a million people through some seventy branch libraries. During Mr. Wray's service there, ten new mobile library services were started, and this was a particular interest. In 1952 he was appointed to the post of County Librarian of Nottinghamshire serving a population of 350,000, with 35 branch libraries and 6 mobile libraries.

In England the County Libraries are part of the Education Service and Mr. Wray was therefore responsible for the school library service in some 400 schools, and for the training of school librarians. He has a particular interest in work with

children, and in the integration of rural and municipal services. Mr. Wray states that his experience has not made him cynical but admits that of recent years it has put a sharp edge on his idealism. He is a Fellow of The Library Association of Great Britain, and was a member of the Council of that body as well as being an



BERNARD W. WRAY

examiner in Library Administration for The Final Examination.

*M. Ramsay.*

#### EDWARD VICTOR STEEL RETIRES

Steel grew up with the Fisher Library, and to outline his career is to outline an important part of its history. He was a boy of 15 when he joined the library staff, and has remained a member of it ever since, though he was four years overseas with the First A.I.F. He was Assistant Librarian for twelve years and Librarian for another twelve. There were only four members of the staff when he joined it, they were all men, and their salaries were

tiny, even by the standards of those days, when librarians ranked as clerks and even a Principal Librarian, except sometimes for reasons that had nothing to do with his librarianship, ranked as a junior lecturer. But by the end of his professional life he was receiving a professorial salary and his successor may very likely have the status also of a professor. His staff now numbered fifty; they received reasonable salaries; in accordance with what seems to be the practice in most libraries, they were almost all women; and a woman is to be the new Assistant Librarian. The Library Grant had increased enormously and the institution and its staff had a status in the University that would have surprised and shocked the academic authorities of a generation earlier.

Steel had his schooling at Redfern Superior Public School and the University of Sydney, and his library training under J. Le Gay Brereton, whose work as a librarian has never been properly appreciated: under him Steel became one of the most expert of Australian librarians. In France he was once buried by a shell-burst whose results he felt in later life, but this did not affect his mental and physical energies. Beyond his library work he was active on the Committee of his branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association, and in connection with *Salt* and the other magazines issued by the Services' Educational Council. He played an important part in the formation of the Australian Institute of Librarians, as it was then called, in the establishment of its examination system and in the work of its N.S.W. branch, of which he became president. For several years he was a member of its Library Board, and also of the Australian Services' Educational Council and its Advisory Committee for N.S.W., and he was associated with the

Library Association's Camp Library Service.

As Chief Cataloguer Steel trained his staff so that, considering its smallness, it got through a surprising amount of work. Under his supervision two old printed author catalogues were checked, carded, and incorporated into the existing system. He also supervised the introduction of open access; hitherto all we could do was to admit honours students, and, in practice, anyone else who asked permission, to the bookstacks after some preliminary instruction. As Assistant Librarian he would loyally and cheerfully carry out a policy even if he might not entirely agree with it, and, being an expert in those library skills with which Brereton's successor was at first entirely unacquainted, left him free to spend a good deal of time in organisation and administration. In these there was much to be done, especially in the matter of Departmental Libraries, which were at that time frowned upon; in filling, as far as was financially possible, the most obvious gaps in the book collection; and in systematising the allocation and administration of the library grant and working for its increase and that of library salaries.

In what little spare time he had, Steel took an Arts degree, besides acting as a member of the Board of Directors of the Union and of its House Committee; he was also a member of the UNESCO Co-operating Body for Australia. He steered the Library through the difficult period of post-war expansion and financial stringency, doing what he could to enable the hard-pressed institution and its services to meet the increasing demands upon them as their users multiplied, until at last, with increased staff and grant and a new building now about to begin, a better time seems about to open.



# Library Development in South Australia

## ONE STEP FORWARD AND TWO BACKWARDS?

By PROFESSOR W. G. K. DUNCAN, PRESIDENT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

When the Libraries (Subsidies) Act was under discussion in the S.A. Parliament in November 1955, criticism was directed at its provisions from two opposing points of view. On the one hand, several members doubted the wisdom of establishing completely free public libraries. They thought that more support should be given to the existing Institute (subscription) libraries. One member had the courage to defend his unashamedly nineteenth-century outlook thus:

"I do not believe in providing people with something entirely free when they would value it more if they had to pay a little for it. That is what I think about free libraries, and a lot of other free things, these days. I do not think there is as much in the cry for free libraries as appears on the surface. It has an appeal because something for nothing always has an appeal. The large majority of people seem to suffer little or no personality damage through indulging in the human pastime of hoping to get something for nothing, but that generally results in undermining the individualism and self-respect of the community."

On the other hand, several Opposition members expressed their keen disappointment at the half-hearted and restricted nature of the subsidies offered by the State. One, in particular, denounced the whole Bill as "an utterly useless piece of window-dressing . . . so far from going any way towards getting a proper library scheme it will prove an obstruction, rather." He and his colleagues confidently predicted that few Councils would take any action as a result of the offer made in the Bill. And experience confirmed this estimate of the position, for during the next two years not a single subsidy was granted.

In December 1957, however, a free public library was opened at Elizabeth, the satellite town about 15 miles to the north of Adelaide, and South Australia could at last be said to have "broken its duck". The conditions here are exceptional. Elizabeth is a planned city and civic amenities of all kinds have been carefully thought out and provided for. The library owes a good deal to the interest and co-operation of the S.A. Housing Trust, which made available one of its shop premises in the excellently-designed Shopping Centre at Elizabeth South. But the over-all pattern qualified the library for subsidy under the Act: the running costs were to be borne equally by the local Salisbury Council and the State, the initial stock of books were provided on loan by the State Public Library, and the librarian in charge at Elizabeth was a professional officer, seconded from this Library.

From the day it opened the Library at Elizabeth has been an outstanding success. Judging from the voices and accents of its patrons many of them come from the North of England and Scotland, and, having enjoyed a modern library service "at home", need no convincing of its value to themselves as well as their children. The doors once opened, they flocked in, in their hundreds. It is just as well that Elizabeth is within easy access of Adelaide, as desperate 'phone calls for assistance could be met by rushing up extra staff, and a wider range of books, by taxi and private cars.

Nor was this a "flash in the pan". As in so many other parts of Australia, the danger now confronting the library at Elizabeth is that it may fail to keep up the supply of books to the eager and steadily mounting demand for them. Here are some typical figures:



The initial stock of books, 4,000 in number, had to be supplemented on the third day by a further 500, and since then the Salisbury Council has voted an extra £200, to help cope with the demand. By the end of June 1958 (that is, within seven months of opening) there were over 3,000 registered borrowers, which is nearly 35% of the population served—a figure it normally takes two or three years to reach. No less than 80% of the children's books are out on loan at any one time.

The Elizabeth public library serves a population of approximately the same size as that of the Salisbury Institute Library, and the following comparisons are therefore significant:

Number of books in the library:	
Salisbury Institute .....	4,800
Elizabeth Public .....	6,100
Number of subscribers to	
Salisbury Institute .....	185
Number of registered borrowers at Elizabeth over	
.....	3,600
(and rapidly rising)	
Number of books issued per month:	
Salisbury Institute .....	480
Elizabeth Public .....	8,512

So much for Elizabeth. What conclusions can be drawn from the experience? At least three—according to believers in public libraries, at all events: first, that the latent demand for good books is just as widespread in South Australia as elsewhere in Australia, and the reason why we are so backward in library facilities is that we lack an adequate over-all scheme of library development. Secondly, that such a scheme will have to offer more inducement to local councils to establish libraries than is contained in the 1955 Act (and, in particular, that the State will have to help with premises, as did the Housing Trust at Elizabeth). And thirdly, that the future belongs to free public libraries and not to subscription libraries. The spectacular difference in the borrowings at Elizabeth and the Salisbury Institute is no accident. Numerous examples of the same sort of thing can be found in the annual reports of the West Australian and other Library Boards.

Subscription libraries lack both the resources and the skill needed to build up, and service, a balanced collection of books. And, paradoxical as it may seem, it is only when good quality books (covering a wide range of interests) are available, that libraries are widely used.

Does the S.A. Government agree with these conclusions? Where does it stand, as between the critics of the Right (distrusting free public libraries) and the critics of the Left (advocating more generous assistance to them)? With magnificent impartiality (or muddle-headedness, according to your point of view) it agrees with them both. In August, 1958 it introduced a Libraries (Subsidies) Act Amendment Bill which, in effect, takes one step forward (towards more generous assistance) and at least two steps backwards (by offering this increased assistance to any "approved body" and (as indicated during the debate) restricting the use to be made of professional librarians.)

Under the 1955 Act the Treasurer was authorised to make subsidies (on a £ for £ basis) to help cover the cost of running and maintaining a library. The 1958 Bill widens this authority to allow for subsidies to help cover the capital costs of establishing a library (the cost of premises, and furniture and fittings). Everybody welcomes that as a step forward. But the Government also proposes, in this new Bill, to make these subsidies available to "approved bodies", whether or not these bodies are supported by their local councils. This means—and it was made quite clear both inside and outside the House—more assistance to subscription libraries. Perhaps the most ominous aspect of the discussions in Parliament was the failure of any speaker to draw attention to the serious implications of this step. The Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House was even allowed to "get away" with the appalling suggestion that subsidies should be made available not only to subscription libraries but to the libraries of denominational institutions.

So here we are in the year of grace 1958 still having to argue in South Aus-

tralia (and, in fact, not arguing enough!) about the futility of subscription libraries as a basis for a community-wide service. The prospect is not only that public money will be wasted in bolstering up these moribund institutions but that we shall be faced with proposals for "mixed" systems — public libraries with "pay" or "rental" collections. The chief danger of such systems is that they will discredit the whole idea, and appeal, of a proper library service.

This danger is the greater because there is no mention in the new Bill of any *minimum* expenditure on libraries which approved bodies must guarantee in order to qualify for subsidy. Public money spent in dribs and drabs may win widespread support from vested interests in the field, but will certainly not result in either effective coverage or high standards in the service itself.

The Bill as a whole gives the impression of "bits and pieces" and make-believe. There is no indication in it that the Government has any thought-out policy in this matter; that it understands the need for regional grouping of library authorities because of our sparsely settled countryside; or the need for training and employing permanently (not just borrowing for a few months) a body of professional librarians; or, more generally, the need for promoting and organising and integrating library services.

Perhaps there is still some truth in the charge made in 1955 that the Libraries Act was mere "window dressing", and even some relevance in the caustic remark made by McColvin in his 1947 Report on *Public Libraries in Australia*:

"The State or local authority giving aid [to Institute libraries] may lull itself into satisfaction, into the belief that it is doing all that may reasonably be expected.

Even if it does not suffer from any such illusions, it may be willing to regard these subsidies as a cheap way to stave off public demand for something better."

Criticism along these lines, published in the local Press, elicited an angry rejoinder from the Attorney-General. He claimed that:

"The South Australian Act to subsidise libraries is more liberal than that of any other State. Firstly, there is no limit on the subsidy. Secondly, all expenditure including buildings, etc., will be fully subsidised pound for pound. This is more liberal than any other State. Thirdly, in addition, the Government is assisting the establishment of free libraries by providing the initial stock with no expense to the Council."

In short, he fully endorsed the report supplied to him by the chairman of the Libraries Board, that "this State's legislation is more liberal, and will be more effective than that of any other State."

By when? That the Premier and Treasurer does not expect an immediate flood of applications is indicated by the fact that he has included in the Estimates for the year ending June 1959 only £7,000 for the Libraries Department to meet its needs on this score (£5,000 for the purchase of books for subsidised libraries, and £2,000 for administrative expenses). In addition to this there will be the subsidies claimed by Councils and approved bodies. It is true that, in theory, there is no ceiling to such subsidies. But the £ for £ basis of these subsidies will, in practice, provide such a ceiling, and in the estimate of those familiar with the outlook and resources of local bodies, a pretty low ceiling. Only time will show who are the realists.

In the meantime, South Australian complacency remains unshaken.

# Correspondence

The Editor,  
Australian Library Journal,  
Dear Madam,

Mr. L. C. Masterman complains in the July issue about the Journal's lack of inspiration. The complaint is and always has been well-justified; the remedy lies and always has lain in the hands of the general membership of the Association, including Mr. Masterman.

Speaking with some feeling and, at the moment, with more experience than anyone else of editing this particular Journal, may I remind Mr. Masterman that you cannot make bricks without straw? Or is he perhaps honestly unaware of the appalling apathy of the Association generally in relation to its official organ?

Mr. Masterman says *inter alia* "you could really believe the editor was at his wits end to fill the space" — I am sure he was. I know I was all too often. It may be true, as your correspondent suggests, that nothing much in the way of controversial editorial matter has been included recently to stimulate thought and discussion. My modesty will not prevent me from saying that this has been tried too. I have myself, in near-desperation, included in the Journal the most outrageous and provocative over-statements; the response — absolutely nil.

Nor is it only a matter of correspondence and its stimulation. I am ashamed at the unduly high proportion of signed articles of my own which I included in the Journal during my editorship. Perhaps Mr. Masterman felt at the time that I was using the Journal for my own ends — on the contrary; there just was nothing else to put in! Indeed the editorial function became at times almost farcical and the attempt to establish standards either literary or professional for the inclusion of material is best measured by the fact that in my whole term as editor I fancy I rejected two or three sheets of copy!

This particular editorship is a thankless task. It is also a demanding one. It did

not surprise me to find that the last half dozen issues were much delayed and rather thin, the wonder is that they came out at all when their preparation had to take its place as just another of the duties of the Honorary General Secretary.

Even if the Journal received the active support from members that it deserves in the way of regular contribution, its editorship would involve more time than a practising librarian can spare when he is shouldering already the operation of the whole Association. Given the present state of apathetic indifference it is more than a full-time librarian can manage effectively even if he holds no other office.

Why in any case did the Honorary General Secretary have to add this chore to his already heavy burden? Because *no one else* could be cajoled or threatened into undertaking it when the existing Editor was thoughtless enough to take up his sabbatical year.

Oh no! There is just no future in trying to improve the Journal by sniping at the Editor. It is our own house (or is it houses?) which should be put in order first.

Perhaps, Madam editor, Mr. Masterman's letter and mine may represent the dawning of the, rather delayed, new era. Perhaps we may actually stimulate some activity among the rank-and-file like ourselves. A little real action by us all might just about enable you to establish a real journal before the drying up of funds, again as a result of the apathy of members, requires its abandonment!

Harrison Bryan, *Librarian,*  
University of Queensland, and  
former Editor, *Australian Library Journal.*

Dear Sir,

Mr. Masterman, in the July issue of the Journal, urges us, through these columns, to express our views on library matters that we feel strongly about.

In the same issue of the Journal is a report of a recent meeting of General

Council, at which it was decided that members of the Association, wishing to join more than one Section, may now do so by paying the Hon. Gen. Secretary an additional annual fee of 10/-.

Now this is a matter that I for one feel strongly about, so this would seem the time to voice my protest.

My position is this. As a member of the Association I am interested in the work of two Sections—the Public Libraries and the Children's Libraries Sections. My primary interest in librarianship has been, and is, in the work of the municipal libraries. As it so happened, my initial appointment to a public library was as a children's librarian, and from that appointment arose an interest in children's librarianship.

When, in 1951, Sections were formed within the Association, we were told by General Council that we might nominate one Section which would receive one-fifth of our subscription fee, but we could belong to as many Sections as we wished. I nominated the Children's Libraries Section, making known my interest to the Public Libraries Section and asking to be kept informed of meetings, etc. For a time circulars from the latter Section reached me, and then stopped coming. Knowing that Sections were short of funds and could not afford to keep on their mailing lists non-contributing members, I pressed the request no further. From then on I found myself taking the line of least resistance and simply nominating the Children's Libraries Section. I lost contact with the Public Libraries Section, and they lost a member.

The Association now tells us that we may, by paying 10/- a year extra, belong to this second Section. Is it right that those of us whose interests overlap should be required to subscribe 10/- a year in addition to our annual fee? Surely Sections are a grouping of members with similar interests within the Association, not something for which we should be charged. It would seem, on the face of it, that if membership fees to the Association are not high enough to finance Sectional activities, then they should be raised. I'm not sure

though, that it doesn't open up the larger question of the organization of the Association into Branches and Sections. Would we be better served by sectional groups within the framework of State Branches rather than by the present Commonwealth-wide organization which is, in my opinion, unwieldy and so costly to administer? I believe we would.

It would be interesting to know what other members think about this.

Yours faithfully,

M. Warner.

The Editor,

The Australian Library Journal.

Madam,

Mr. Sharr, in his article entitled "What's the use of cataloguing and classification" in the July *Journal* argues that the Registration Examination ought not to have three compulsory papers devoted to cataloguing and classification. I agree with Mr. Sharr that three papers out of the six required for the Registration Certificate is a disproportionate amount—two papers with the same content would be enough, but I disagree with him on the issue of cataloguing and classification being compulsory papers.

I cannot accept the view that the effort spent by most candidates on these papers is almost entirely wasted. I have yet to meet the librarian who does not need to know how to use a catalogue, and it cannot be maintained that catalogues are so simple that anyone lacking special training can use them effectively. No cataloguer tries to make his catalogue complex, but it is a fact that librarians who lack cataloguing training can only laboriously surmount such minor complexities as filing. As Mr. Sharr rightly observes, "Cataloguing is a highly specialised skill. Only good cataloguers can build a good catalogue." To this I would add "and only librarians with cataloguing training can use a good catalogue."

Mr. Sharr states that the excellence of cataloguers depends as much on temperament as on knowledge. In my view, the essential qualities are an orderly mind, wide general knowledge, meticulous attention

to detail, and a good memory. And these are among the qualities essential for any good librarian.

I agree with Mr. Sharr when he states that the present standard of R1, 2 and 3 is not high enough for those candidates who intend specializing in cataloguing. A paper containing parts of R7 and R8 as an advanced cataloguing paper would be useful, but the present standard is hardly too high for those candidates who do not intend to specialize. Any competent cataloguer could catalogue and classify the six problems in any one of the R3 papers for the past five years in one and a half hours. Surely it is not too much to expect that all candidates should put up a reasonable performance in three hours? By all means let us have papers in Bibliography and Book Selection. No one would deny the importance of these subjects. I would make them compulsory too.

Mr. Sharr somewhat exaggerates the place that the A.L.A. Rules, L.C., D.C., etc., have in the Syllabus. The R1 syllabus has three paragraphs out of eight specifying these; R2 has five out of eleven. As for R3—would Mr. Sharr allow candidates the choice of the A.L.A. Rules, the Anglo-American code, the Vatican Rules, the Prussian Instructions, D.C., U.D.C., L.C., Cutter, Colon, Bliss, co-ordinate indexing, or whatever rules the candidate's own library might happen to use? Examinations must be carried on according to some standards, and the Syllabus is realistic in requiring those standards which are most commonly used in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as in the most important national and international bibliographies.

Papers in advanced cataloguing and in bibliography should meet Mr. Sharr's requirements of a broad, analytic and critical approach to the subject. Remove the compulsory requirements of the Registration examination and the ground is cleared for the certification of poorly equipped librarians with a very incomplete professional education.

R. K. Olding.

Dear Madam,

I was very interested to read Mr. Sharr's article "What's the use of cataloguing and classification" in the July, 1958 issue of the Australian Library Journal and to find that a senior librarian shares many of the thoughts which I and other students had as we prepared for our Registration examinations.

Any system of professional training is, or should be, designed to prepare the student to fulfil the duties of his position and to help him to cope with his professional problems; but few examination systems achieve the latter as no syllabus of prescribed learning or conditions of examination equal the actual conditions of work.

The L.A.A. examination syllabus, with a compulsory half of the required papers devoted to cataloguing and classification, does seem to over-emphasise a branch of library science, which, as Mr. Sharr points out, is very important, but does not amount to half of the professional work done in the average library. But I do not agree with Mr. Sharr's contention that cataloguing knowledge will not be used by staff other than cataloguers. Though reference or acquisition staff, for example, do not need the specialist knowledge of a cataloguer, a basic training is certainly necessary to enable them to use the catalogue effectively or to search bibliographies. Whereas the majority of books have simple author entry, there are other publications, for example *Festschriften*, expeditions and anonymous classics, which have a different type of entry. Without a ready knowledge of the cataloguing rules, the searcher may not find the required work, and as a result a reader may go away needlessly unsatisfied or books may be double-ordered. In our complex age, cataloguing is tending to become a complicated game of "information unretrievable" instead of information retrieval. I am sure that not a few cataloguers have had the experience of searching the catalogue unsuccessfully for a work which they know is in the library, and if the specialist who made the catalogue is sometimes puzzled by his own creation, how much more so



the library assistant with no cataloguing training — not to mention the uninitiated general public.

Mr. Sharr's statement that many libraries do not need cataloguers because they subscribe to a system of centralized cataloguing, cannot go quite unchallenged. I think that very few libraries need no cataloguing staff. If the system subscribed to is a local one, then possibly the needs of all the different libraries to use the cards have been taken into account but generally some editing of subject headings and even of class marks is necessary. This work may not need a specialist cataloguer but it certainly needs some training and considerable experience of the needs and policy of the particular library. If the system is one such as the Library of Congress printed card service or the British National Bibliography card service then it is certainly imperative that there be adequately trained cataloguers to adapt the printed cards and to catalogue those books — the cards for which are either not suitable or not available.

What training is provided by the L.A.A. examinations and how far does this meet the requirements of future cataloguers or other library staff in need of a basic training in cataloguing? The Preliminary examination does provide some basic cataloguing knowledge — is this sufficient for the needs of the non-cataloguer? I would say most definitely not. It is surprising how little skill and knowledge is acquired by the student in the months of training for the Preliminary examination. I do think some training at a higher level is necessary for all librarians, but I agree with Mr. Sharr that the Registration syllabus as it now stands, doesn't quite "fit the bill" for either the specialist or the general staff. The Registration papers R1-2 aim to give some knowledge of the theory of cataloguing and classification and of the principal cataloguing rules and three of the main classifications in use. Mr. Sharr's main quarrel with these papers is that too much emphasis is placed on a knowledge of certain schemes, some of which will certainly be of no use to students and will therefore be quickly forgot-

ten once the examination is over. With this point I would agree — especially as the classification scheme used in our library is not considered in the syllabus at all while the Library of Congress classification is, though used I would imagine by an equally small number of libraries.

The third compulsory paper, R3, is a test of practical cataloguing, unsuited, I feel, to either the needs of the general library staff or the cataloguer. The papers often include books of a very specialist nature and the students are required to use a list of subject headings which is generally inadequate for this type of book. In a cataloguer's daily work, he has access to many reference books as well as to the catalogue, to assist him in subject fields other than his own, and frequently calls on subject specialists in his institution when the problem is too "knotty". Not many cataloguers would attempt to catalogue all the books on an examination paper with only a dictionary for guidance. For classification, the student may choose between two different schemes which may, or may not be, used by him later, but he has no choice in the list of subject headings prescribed. I feel that a library which had a book stock of the calibre of the titles set in the examination would use not Sears, designed for the smaller, non-specialist library, but the Library of Congress List of Subject Headings or a list of similar standard in a special subject field. It may be argued that all libraries will not have the Library of Congress List of Subject Headings and some students would be penalized if a choice of lists was given. But these would be the students for whom the present R3 is unnecessary as their libraries would probably subscribe to a centralized system of cataloguing or have only a general book stock and so have no need of specialist cataloguers. Any students in smaller libraries who wished to become specialist cataloguers would find it necessary to move to a larger library, where they could get the necessary experience and where all the tools would be available to them. Another reason for prescribing Sears may be that students are being practically examined on the art of



making up subject headings which they have learnt in theory in R2. But if the student didn't have a knowledge of a special subject, I can visualise him deciding the type of heading required, but being unable to choose the correct terms to go before and after the punctuation marks.

What type of syllabus then should be provided to suit the needs of general library staff and specialists? I would suggest that there still be compulsory papers on cataloguing and classification—possibly two as previously—and more suited to the general library staff who need both practical and theoretical training. For the student, who wishes to specialize later, there could be another optional paper covering more advanced practical cataloguing and perhaps additional theory.

Examinations, even when admirably suited to the needs of students, are generally not an accurate test of practical ability as students vary considerably in their attitude to them and the conditions of the test are not at all similar to working conditions.

Unfortunately for the student however, some form of examination is necessary to enable a further advance into wider fields of practical experience which alone can adequately equip the librarian to solve his daily problems.

Jennifer Reynolds, B.A. (Hons.), A.L.A.  
Chief Cataloguer,  
University of Tasmania Library.

## Book Reviews

*The Australian Encyclopaedia*, Sydney, Angus & Robertson Ltd., 1958. 10 vols. £A50/0/0.

The new and much enlarged *Australian Encyclopaedia* has now been published for long enough to be tested in practice. Let it be said at once that it is amongst the very few individual works that are indispensable to every Australian public library and to every other library that is called upon to supply information about Australia. Nevertheless, it is not quite as good as might have been hoped.

In size the *Encyclopaedia*, especially by comparison with its predecessor of 1925-7, is impressive: 10 volumes; 4,500,000 words; 6,200 subjects; more than 2,000 illustrations including 54 plates in colour. It contains 2,200 biographies, 1,600 articles on flora and fauna, and 1,400 geographical entries, and the maps are fairly numerous and good. In scope it is claimed to be "essentially a national work relating to a single continent," maintaining "a fair balance between the various States" (1:ix), but wisely it includes New Zealand to 1841 and the Australian Territories. As can be seen from the statistics quoted it

is clearly weighted as to more than five-sixths of the articles in it towards history, natural science, and geography. In arrangement, as an encyclopaedia and "basically a work of reference" (1:viii), it is alphabetical with articles under specific rather than general headings, and alphabetizing is on the "word by word" principle. In format, layout, and typographical accuracy it leaves little to be desired.

From a librarian's point of view particularly, however, as with any such work of reference, the main requirements are authenticity, up-to-dateness, and ease in use. If there are also pointers to other and more detailed sources of information, so much the better. Naturally, it is impracticable to make a full analysis of a work of this great size. Authenticity can therefore be tested only by sampling, and the simplest way to do this is the time-honoured method of sampling what one knows, which, it must be admitted, is not necessarily an adequate or perhaps even fair test. Even this method can, however, raise some valid doubts, or at least indicate a need for caution if the work concerned is found wanting. Unfortunately, so far

as this reviewer is concerned, the *Australian Encyclopaedia* does not prove to be of uniformly good quality and dependability.

For example, in the article on **Libraries**: H. C. L. Anderson did not succeed R. C. Walker as Principal Librarian in New South Wales when the latter died but nearly four years before his death; G. C. Remington is not chairman of the Library Board of New South Wales, although some may consider that he should have been; and it is at least misleading to say that "a new building [for the Public Library, Sydney] was completed in 1889," when the new work consisted of extensions and renovations to an old one. It may be just a piece of bad writing, but surely no one would seriously claim that at the time of the Munn-Pitt report the library "needs" of Brisbane residents were "met" by the Public Library of Queensland and the few other libraries mentioned, whilst a similar sacrifice of accuracy to style occurs in the article on **Australiana**: J. K. Moir of Melbourne did not begin transferring his collection to "the Public Library of that city" but to the Public Library of Victoria. The article on libraries, even within the limitations of space, is scrappy to say the least and deals far too much in superficialities of description and chronicle and too little in policies, influences and trends. This criticism may fairly be made all too commonly elsewhere in the *Encyclopaedia*.

Many of the articles are signed and about 350 contributors, individual and corporate, are listed. Some of these contributors do not appear to be of very high standing, but many are well known throughout Australia and at least some have an international reputation. Nevertheless the great majority of articles do not carry this sort of stamp of authority: amongst those that do not, taken at random, are the articles on Henry Lawson, Libraries, Bushfires, Communist Party, Arthur Phillip, Workers' Compensation, National Standards, and Defence Science. Of the unsigned articles, at any rate, some bear all the marks of hack writing without special knowledge or qualifications: the unsigned

article on Ludwig Leichhardt, for example, appears to be based on a single book which is certainly not acceptable as the final judgment on that complex character to all scholars who have made a special study of his career. No doubt this is scarcely avoidable in a work of this magnitude which is restricted in subject to a single small nation and must therefore have a comparatively limited circulation. Comparatively few of the biographies are signed, although some notable ones by noted authorities are. On the other hand many, perhaps most, of the longer non-biographical articles are signed. The excellent and invaluable list of Wrecks and Shipping Disasters in the old *Australian Encyclopaedia* has apparently been revised and is now in a single alphabet under the names of the ships, in a separate section in volume 10 immediately before the index. It is, however, not as comprehensive as the older list, if easier to use, nor, like its predecessor is it wholly accurate. As a single example of each the *Korora* which formerly appeared as *Karora* has been omitted, and the *Enchantress* is stated to have had "only about three" survivors whereas contemporary records list the names of considerably more.

Every encyclopaedia in the conventional pattern is more or less out of date before publication and the *Australian Encyclopaedia* is necessarily no exception to this. In general, the latest information shown is for about the year 1956, which is not unreasonable, but too frequently information, especially statistical, is not later than for 1954 even though it was available by 1956. Libraries in this respect, as in others already mentioned, seem to have suffered badly. One very useful feature of the *Encyclopaedia*, however, is the addition of short bibliographies to a great many of the articles whether the latter are signed or not. Usually, but not always, these bibliographies seem to have been well selected although the editors specifically declare (1:ix) that the *Encyclopaedia* "does not necessarily endorse wholly every item quoted in the bibliographies." Manuscript and other unpublished sources are unfortunately, but understandably, rarely

listed in any of the bibliographies.

While the arrangement of articles is alphabetical and the *Encyclopaedia* is therefore in large measure self-indexing, the inclusion of a few more cross references and a little more care in devising some of those that have been used would have been helpful. For example, the heading Telegraph and Telephone has "see" references to Overseas Telecommunications and to Post Office, but not to Overland Telegraph Line; under Overseas Telecommunications is a brief entry which is little more than a reference to Pacific Cable and also back to Post Office. The index, which is as comprehensive as one could reasonably wish, was the work of two distinguished Australian librarians and it does straighten out fairly effectively any difficulties of cross references in the body of the work, but there are points to be watched even in the use of the index itself.

It has been stated (10:34) that in the compilation of the index "priority has been given to pointing out the less obvious sources of information on a subject" so that, for example, references to army units in the war articles are not always indexed, nor are individual plants in the articles on their genus; plates accompanying an article are not indexed under its title although illustrations appearing elsewhere are indexed under appropriate headings. The list of wrecks is not indexed. All this is carefully explained by the editors and is obviously a necessary economy in an index which, as it is, occupies more than 350 pages each of three columns, but those who use the index need to make themselves familiar with its limitations. There are some other features of the index, however, which appear to depart from standard principles. To take the text-book example, there is a heading for "Radio" with a "see also" reference to "Wireless", and one for "Wireless" with a "see also" reference to "headings under Radio" and to "Broadcasting". Headings appear for "Gum or gum-tree" and the "Eucalypts (bot.)" as well as for "Eucalyptus spp. (bot.)". The last two have no cross reference to the first, but under "Gum or

gum-tree" is a "see also" reference to Eucalypts, the division between the headings here apparently being for popular terms (Lemon-scented, ornamental, spotted, Tasmanian blue gum and so on) on the one hand and for botanical terms on the other. This is not open to much criticism in all the circumstances but it is hard to see why no reference is made under the Eucalyptus headings back to "Gum or gum-tree." Cross references are not made from a class to a member of a class, for example from "Cattle" to the names of breeds of cattle or from "Schools" to the names of schools, and so on. Headings are specific and the index must be used accordingly; there is not much help given if the specific heading is not known.

A review of any book is limited for a number of obvious reasons, and especially so if it is a review of a book of four and a half million words. In such circumstances it is impossible to do full justice to the *Australian Encyclopaedia*. For every weakness it has a strength, for every vice a virtue, and more, much more; it is a great achievement and a great work. But it must be recognized to be of something less than the absolute authority of the Holy Law to a Zealot.

G. D. Richardson.

*"Encyclopaedia of Librarianship"*,

edited by Thomas Landau

London, Bowes & Bowes, 1958. 63/- stg.

According to the preface, the *Encyclopaedia of Librarianship* is intended as "a simple and comprehensive reference tool which is easy to use and of interest to student and librarian". Many of the articles contain excellent material and present in a concise form information which is otherwise scattered among a variety of sources. But once this has been said, and the intention of the author wholeheartedly approved, there remains little in the work that can be commended.

In the first place the coverage is very patchy. Important subjects such as readers' advising, publicity, periodicals and storytelling are either omitted completely or dismissed with brief notes and definitions. At the other end of the scale, there are

entries for such minutiae of printing as "scumming", "run-around", and "butted slugs", and for other miscellaneous items such as "hygrometer", "bookworm" and "silverfish", but not for the equally important "rat" and "mildew", or even for "date label" and "application card".

In the great majority of the contributions, emphasis is laid on facts and methods, to the virtual exclusion of philosophy and theory. Finance and committees are considered only as they are affected by public library law, the place of fiction in the public library is barely mentioned in the article on book selection, and there is little or no suggestion of the controversies surrounding union cataloguing and the Decimal Classification. Some of these omissions may be due to the non-inclusion of recent material. Most articles do not cover developments which have taken place within the last three years or so, and there are no articles at all on subjects such as storage libraries and paperbacks.

Reference to overseas practice is very inconsistent. In "Education for Librarianship" and "Administration" generous tribute is paid to American achievements, but in the articles on library co-operation and subject specialization neither the Midwest Inter-Library Center nor the Farmington Plan rates a mention. In "Regional Library Systems" the only form of regional service recognised is that of the British regional library bureaux, and the article on "Copyright" deals only with the British Copyright Act of 1911. While it is by no means essential that an encyclopaedia of this type should be international in scope, it should follow a consistent policy one way or the other, and should state its policy clearly. The switch from one approach to the other produces in the reader a feeling of distrust and uncertainty as to the coverage of the articles. A marked national bias is evident in the selection of biographical subjects, but even if this is accepted as legitimate, one would expect to find articles on such important figures as Andrew Carnegie and Melvil Dewey, whose work has been of major importance to British librarianship.

The problems of allocating subject

material between entries and of linking together related entries have not been solved satisfactorily. As a result, the encyclopaedia is difficult to use, and glaring gaps occur even in subjects which are treated in considerable detail. There is, for example, a long article on bookbinding, but the definition of bookbinding as "the art of attaching stout covers by means of tapes or cords to the sewn gatherings of a book..." is obviously inadequate, and the distinction between binding and casing becomes clear only when the definition under "Case Binding" (to which there is no reference) is checked. Nowhere does there appear to be a consecutive description of the process of bookbinding, although operations such as sewing and backing have separate entries. On the other hand, although there is a separate article on leather, information on the treatment of leather bindings to prevent decay is included in the article on bookbinding.

When references to allied subjects are given, it is usually in the form of "see also" references at the end of the articles, but there are not nearly enough references, and in at least one article (that on the catalogue) "see also" references have been replaced — very inadequately — by the use of "q.v." in the text. At times, the following up of references becomes a discouraging and disconcerting occupation. A reference from "Library Committees" leads the reader to "Committees" under which there is no entry, while the reader referred from Architecture, Planning to Furniture finds himself suddenly transported to the realm of typesetting! There is an entry under "Anglo-American Code" but no reference to this form of name under "Catalogue Codes"; there is no suggestion of any relationship between "Accessions Methods and Records" and "Book Number"; and the reader is left to find his own way to the numerous articles on loan methods and related subjects.

The information included in the articles is usually accurate and useful, although one may wonder why in the article "Accessions Methods and Records" so much emphasis is laid on antiquated methods;

why an old form of the Newark charging system is described, when the description of the Browne system represents current practice; and why it is implied that the flagging of charges for reservations applies to the Browne system but not to Newark. In some cases the material has been condensed so severely that the article serves as a mnemonic device rather than as a source of information.

Occasional quaintness and lack of meaning are apparent in the terminology. For some inexplicable reason the Browne charging system is entered under "Pocket Card Charging" and this term is also favoured by the author of "Loan Methods", whereas the author of "Photo-charging" is less inhibited with regard to popular usage. Entry under headings such as "Rack" and "Library Has" appears to be completely pointless.

Excellent bibliographies have been provided on some subjects, for example on chain indexing and, within the limits of British practice, on library co-operation and school libraries. Others are open to criticism on the grounds that they are restricted to stereotyped and somewhat out of date material (Decimal Classification); they are restricted to British works in fields where the inclusion of some American material would appear to be essential (children's libraries); and they are split between the main heading and subsidiary headings in an inconsistent and unsatisfactory way (loan methods). On some subjects, such as mobile libraries and centralized cataloguing, where the literature is diffuse and a bibliography would be especially welcome, none is given.

Setting aside technical shortcomings, the weakness of the encyclopaedia appears to be due to the lack of a well-defined purpose. It is stated in the preface that "the scope of subjects treated follows fairly closely the syllabus of the Library Association professional examinations". Judging by the result, there is a deep gulf separating the examination requirements from practical librarianship. If it was the compiler's intention to produce a cram book or source book for examination purposes, he should

not have tried to dress it up as an encyclopaedia. If, on the other hand, it was his intention to produce an encyclopaedia, either he should have kept within the limits of the present 300 or so pages but confined the subject coverage to librarianship proper, or he should have enlarged the scope of the work to allow an adequate treatment of librarianship in its widest sense. As it is, the material on the philosophy, history and methods of librarianship is swamped by the enormous amount of information on printing and bookbinding.

A good encyclopaedia of librarianship, preferably Anglo-American in scope, is badly needed by the practising librarian and, one would hope, by the student, who surely should be required to develop a broad understanding of the field in which he is working rather than to swot up a collection of somewhat arbitrarily chosen subjects. But we shall have to wait for another work, or perhaps another edition of this work, before that need is met.

M. Ramsay.

*The Indian National Bibliography,*  
October-December, 1957.

General Editor B. S. Kesavan  
[Calcutta] Central Reference Library,  
1958. xiii, 273 p., 24/- stg.

Since the enactment of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, with its provision for library deposit Indian librarians have been moving steadily and systematically towards the compilation of a bibliography comprehending publications in all the official languages of India. The appearance in August, 1958, of the first of the planned quarterly issues is a notable event on which Mr. Kesavan and his colleagues are to be congratulated.

The establishment in Delhi of the Central Reference Library which it was proposed should compile the bibliography has not yet taken place. Staff specially assembled for the Central Reference Library and stationed at the National Library, Calcutta, have, however, been working on the project for a considerable time. The Indian National Bibliography Committee, of which Mr. Kesavan, Librarian-in-Charge



of the Central Reference Library, was chairman, decided in November 1955 the general form that the Bibliography would take. In May 1957 an experimental fascicle was circulated to leading librarians and library associations in many parts of the world. The resulting comments were taken into account in determining in detail the final form of the bibliography.

The first of the regular periodical issues comes up to, and even exceeds, the high promise held out by the experimental fascicle. Mr. Kesavan and his assistant editors are entitled to praise for so much as attempting a bibliography to compass an estimated 20,000 items a year. The fact that this enormous mass of printed material comes into the National Library in many languages and a variety of printed scripts has meant a corresponding increase in the size and difficulty of an already formidable undertaking. The *Indian National Bibliography* is intended to list material published in India in English and the thirteen other officially-recognized languages of the Republic. Two of these, Assamese and Gujarati, are not covered in the first issue because of difficulty in recruiting staff with the necessary language proficiency. Having decided against printing the Bibliography in the many scripts of the publications which it was to list, the Committee had to decide on which single script to use, Roman or Devnagari. That Roman was favoured will probably please the great majority of users of the Bibliography, particularly those in Western countries. The editors point out that the task of transliterating authors' names and titles of books from so many languages into Roman type with the necessary diacritical marks has presented some typographical difficulties which the Government of India Press in Calcutta is not, for the time being, fully equipped to overcome. The few compromises necessary in the circumstances are listed in the preface.

The Bibliography is intended to be an exhaustive one, listing trade and non-trade publications, including government publications. There are some exclusions, however: musical scores, maps, newspapers, periodicals (except the first issue of a new

periodical and the first issue of a periodical under a new title), keys and guides to textbooks, and ephemera.

The arrangement of the *Indian National Bibliography* immediately recalls that of its model, the *British National Bibliography*. The Bibliography is a classified catalogue with index to authors, titles and subjects. The editors have not followed British precedent, however, in their treatment of government publications which they segregate from trade publications in a section (39 pages in this issue) with its own index following. As a checklist of government publications this section has its value, though more interests might have been served if all publications had been brought together in one sequence.

The classified catalogue is ordered by the Dewey Decimal Classification, another concession to the interests of the majority of librarians. The Colon Classification number is given for each entry, but it cannot affect the arrangement and is not referred to in the index. The Decimal Classification is applied as scrupulously as possible. The editors of the Bibliography could hardly have been blamed if they had introduced a number of modifications, however, since this classification was not worked out with the needs of modern Indian librarianship in mind, particularly in regard to the classification of languages and literatures. The gap between the modern Indic and Dravidian in the language and literature divisions is an awkward one for libraries collecting in these fields. Hindi and Urdu between which the Decimal Classification does not differentiate have been separated in the Bibliography by the use of the letter U as a prefix for Urdu.

Though the printed page closely resembles that of the *British National Bibliography* there are several differences. One is less variation in type sizes. Another is the use of wider margins, giving the pages of the *Indian National Bibliography* a pleasingly uncrowded appearance. The rather sparing and at times inconsistent use of capitals in recording the names of corporate bodies is a little disconcerting.



though it may not greatly affect the usefulness of the Bibliography. The editors have rejected the practice of the *British National Bibliography* editors by noting the price of a publication after the collation rather than within the imprint statement. This usually means that the price is quoted at the end of the entry—a suitable place for it. If there is a series note, however, the price is quoted between collation and series note where it is as much out of place as in the imprint. In spite of the evident care that has gone into the preparation of the Bibliography a number of misprints appear, some of them in

places where they can be least afforded.

It would be beyond the power of any national bibliography to remove all the difficulties which face librarians unfamiliar with the national scripts and complex literature of a country such as India, and no one should assume, for example, that it will now be easy to catalogue Indian publications.

The editors of the *Indian National Bibliography* in putting out the first issue were proudly conscious of producing a historic piece of work. They have done bibliography and scholarship a great service.

I. Raymond.

### MISS JOYCE MARIAN JOPLING

The death occurred in Sydney on November 5th, 1958, of Miss Joyce Marian Jopling, a former member of the staff of the Public Library of New South Wales. Miss Jopling left Australia in 1922 to visit America and after six months at the Library of Columbia University, she joined the staff of Detroit Public Library. With the exception of a short return visit America and, after six months at the Public Library of New South Wales, she remained at Detroit until her retirement in 1953.

Whilst a member of the staff in Sydney, Miss Jopling was attached to the Cataloguing and Reference Departments and as well was the officer in charge of training for the old series of library examinations. She will be remembered for her revision of the subject headings in use in the Library, for her editing of the Rooms Catalogue and above all for her "Notes on subject headings for the use of the staff of the Public Library of New South Wales, 1928", which is still used as a tool.

Miss Jopling was an able representative of her fellow officers in the negotiations

for the first Library Officers' Award of 1927. During the hearing of the case, she was complimented by the late Judge Curlew, the presiding Arbitration Court Judge, for her excellent presentation of the officers' claim.

At the Detroit Public Library Miss Jopling's main service was in the Schools Department, advising parents and teachers on children's reading. During the years whilst she was in the U.S.A. she was an active member of the American Library Association and lectured on Australia to innumerable societies and interested groups.

On her retirement and return to Sydney Miss Jopling joined the Library Association of Australia and attended regularly all Branch meetings, her particular interest being with the Children's Library Section. Also she gave valuable service in a voluntary capacity to the libraries of the Workers' Educational Association and the Council of Social Service of New South Wales and to the Mosman Municipal Library.

Jean F. Arnot.

# Branch and Section News

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The following members have been elected to the 1959 Branch Council: President, Mr. R. B. Butler, B.A.; Vice-President, Mr. T. B. Southwell, B.A.; Hon. Secretary, Miss P. P. O'Leary, B.A.; Hon. Asst. Sec., Miss M. C. Mahoney, B.Ec.; Treasurer, Mr. C. E. Smith, B.A.; Past President, Miss F. M. T. Thomas, B.A., LL.B.; Councillors: Mrs. M. E. Cotton, Mr. P. H. Corsby, B.Sc.Tech., Mr. A. L. Johnson, B.A., LL.B., Miss V. J. McClymont, Miss Jean Murray, B.A.; Representative Councillors: Mr. E. Seymour Shaw, M.B.E., Mr. C. E. Smith, B.A.

A general Meeting of the N.S.W. Branch held on Wednesday, 22nd October, at the Sydney University Law School, was addressed by Dr. A. D. Osborn, the newly appointed Librarian of Fisher Library, University of Sydney. Dr. Osborn entertained his large audience with some amusing anecdotes taken from his forty years of library work, and also outlined some recent important developments.

One of these developments is the movement towards uniform cataloguing rules throughout the countries of the world. Dr. Osborn visited Germany last year for the Council on Library Resources to discuss the project with the German Library Association who were at that time reviewing their own cataloguing code. I.F.L.A. is now planning a series of conferences to work towards this goal.

Another goal of the Council on Library Resources is to have books catalogued at their source and it has given a grant to the Library of Congress to provide copy so that publishers in America can include in every book published a facsimile of its Library of Congress catalogue card.

Dr. Osborn stressed that library associations such as our own should actively contribute to international developments in library science.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

At the November meeting of the Branch,

the officers for 1959 were elected. Professor W. G. K. Duncan was re-elected President, Miss K. L. Andersen, Secretary, and Mr. D. W. Dunstan, Treasurer.

Mr. W. G. Buick of the Public Library of South Australia who has recently returned from a year of study at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, spoke to members on "State Libraries in the United States". He illustrated his talk with a number of very interesting slides of public library buildings in many parts of the country.

## TASMANIA

The social highlight of the year was the dinner held in August at the Beltana Hotel, Lindisfarne, in honour of the new State Librarian, Mr. Wray. The dinner also provided members with an opportunity to welcome home the University Librarian, Mr. Borchardt.

Each year one meeting is held in Launceston, and this year the State Librarian, Mr. B. W. Wray, gave a most interesting talk on "The English Library Scene". His comments on the state of union cataloguing and inter-library loan procedures in England were particularly apposite in view of the recent discussions at AACOBS.

At other meetings very interesting talks on overseas librarianship were given by Dr. Keyes Metcalf and Mr. D. H. Borchardt, and members spent a very enjoyable evening at the Electrolytic Zinc Company Library when the librarian, Mr. A. Renison, talked about his service and the Company entertained members at tea.

It was with great regret that the Branch accepted the resignation of Miss Mary Laskey as Hon. Secretary, due to ill-health. The Branch is very fortunate in having as her successor Miss Moya Rewell, who has had considerable experience in Branch and Section affairs.

Miss Cynthia Paltridge has been appointed Branch Representative on the recently formed Public Service Association Committee on Equal Pay.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A meeting of the Branch was held on 24th September in the Perth City Library. This gave members an opportunity to see the library which has recently been re-established by the taking over of the former Perth Literary Institute, by the Perth City Council.

After an inspection of the library members heard a talk on "The North West" by Mr. J. Kenny who illustrated his talk with colour slides.

During the year ending 30th June, 1958, eight new public libraries have been opened in W.A. This brings the total to thirty, serving areas from Exmouth Gulf in the north to Esperance in the South-East.

In addition to the usual classes for the Preliminary Examination it is proposed to hold classes for R1, R2 and R3 of the Registration Examination in 1959.

After 21 years, Miss M. E. Wood, Librarian of the University of W.A., has resigned the Presidency of the W.A. Branch; however, she is still a member of the Council. The result of the election of officers and Council Members for 1959 is: President, Mr. F. A. Sharr; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Balnaves; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Price; Councillors, Mr. C. C. Florey, Mr. J. Hammond, Miss M. White, Mrs. M. C. Williams, Miss M. E. Wood, Mr. J. F. Woolcott. Mrs. Williams is the representative of the Children's Section, and Mr. Woolcott the Special Libraries' Section representative.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

### Section Executive for 1959

The headquarters of the Section will again be in Sydney in 1959, and the Office Bearers will be: President, Miss A. Culey (C.S.I.R.O. McMaster Animal Health Laboratory); Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Murray (Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd.); Hon. Treasurer, Miss J. Humphreys (Dept. of Railways); Representative Councillor, Mrs. C. B. McKay (Commonwealth Industrial Gases Ltd.).

## A.C.T. Division

The Division held its first general meeting for the year on July 31st at the library of C.S.I.R.O. at Black Mountain. Mr. Russell, the librarian, explained the library and showed members round.

Another meeting was held on October 8th at the Australian National Library. Mr. McDonald showed members the library, and also the Oriental Collection — where they were especially interested in the Chinese typewriter — and the library of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, which is a very spacious and attractive library with custom-built furniture.

## N.S.W. Division

The Officers and Committee for 1959 will be: President, Miss B. Johnston (C.S.I.R.O. Div. of Food Preservation); Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Miss H. McKay (Dept. of Education); Committee: Miss B. Evans, Miss W. Johns, Miss M. Lundie, Mr. H. J. D. Meares, Mr. E. H. Wilkinson.

The Division held four meetings during 1958. The Annual Meeting was held on February 10th, and films were shown after the meeting. At a meeting on May 20th, papers were presented by Miss J. Shewcroft on copyright law and by Mr. F. B. Rice on patent law. The meeting on September 30th was held at the new building of the Metal Trades Employers' Association at North Sydney. An inspection of the library was followed by a talk on "Information for Modern Industry" by Mr. David D. Stead, Chief Metallurgist of Austral Bronze Co. Pty. Ltd. The Division has issued two supplements to its List of Periodical Holdings in Special Libraries in N.S.W., and had printed an additional sixty copies of the List to meet the demand for it. A list of some Australian Reference Aids for Special Librarians was distributed to all members in July.

## Queensland Group

Mr. C. Schindler, of the Dept. of Agriculture and Stock will continue as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Queensland Group in 1959. The group is not

large enough to arrange its own meetings.

#### **South Australian Division**

The Officers and Committee for 1959 are: Chairman, Mr. W. R. Hobden (Philips Electrical Industries (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.); Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Miss C. Schneider (Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury); Committee: Miss L. Burden, Mr. S. E. Casson, Mr. P. H. Dawe.

The Division held a number of meetings in 1958. The first was on March 27th when an inspection was made of the Philips Electrical Industries Library and members were also able to watch the assembly of TV tubes in the factory. On June 26th, at the Public Library, Mr. R. Stokes discussed binding and repair of books, pamphlets and periodicals. Members visited the libraries of the Royal Society, and the Royal Geographical Society on September 23rd, and Mr. N. B. Tindale and Miss R. Norman described their libraries. Weekly discussion groups for candidates for the Registration Examination paper on Special Libraries were held during the year. The Division prepared a Draft List of Special Libraries in South Australia, in March, 1958, and distributed it to members.

#### **Tasmanian Group**

The Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Tasmanian Group is Mr. A. L. Reniston (Electrolytic Zinc Co.). The Group did not hold any meetings during 1958.

#### **Victorian Division**

The Officers and Committee for 1959 will be: Convener, Miss B. W. Foord (Dept. of Agriculture); Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Miss H. Johns (Stephenson and Turner). Committee: Mr. J. E. Fry, Miss J. Hollows.

The first meeting for 1958 was held on March 26th, when a proposal to hold a weekend residential conference was discussed. This plan had eventually to be abandoned because of insufficient interest. The Speaker was Mr. Picken, Assistant Work Study Superintendent at Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. Mr. Picken discussed the principles of work study and showed a film. On May 21st, Miss R. Doig (Royal Children's Hospital) and Miss B. Challenger (I.C.I. Research Laboratories) spoke of their recent visits abroad, and described libraries in which they had worked. For its meeting on July 23rd, the Division arranged a working party evening, at which groups of members were asked to plan the layout of a library of a certain size and shape. The plans were then discussed by members and this proved a novel and very successful meeting. The final meeting in 1958 was held on October 22nd, when Miss L. Cheeseman spoke on Recent Trends in Special Libraries with particular reference to Melbourne libraries. During the year the Division issued three numbers of the Abstractor, and one Supplement.

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